

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## Pilot fire fight could be hampered by weather, containment stalls at 6 percent

*By Anne Millerbernd, The Press-Enterprise*

*and Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun*

Tuesday, August 9, 2016



The flames chewing at vegetation in the San Bernardino Mountains have grown to cover 6,963 acres as of Tuesday morning, and firefighters say they still have the blaze about 6 percent contained.

Nobody has been injured, and no structures have been lost in the Pilot fire, said San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Marc Peebles.

The number of firefighters at the blaze has also grown from 843 Monday night to 934, Peebles said.

• Photos: [Fight against Pilot fire continues on Day 2 as acreage grows](#)

• Photos: [400 firefighters battle Pilot fire on Day 1 in San Bernardino Mountains](#)

As of Tuesday morning, about 5,300 people were told to evacuate, he said.

Both Hesperia and Apple Valley school districts have called off classes for Tuesday because of the fire.

Deer Lodge Park was under mandatory evacuation Tuesday morning. Peebles said that area had not burned since 2006 during the Pinnacles fire.

“The area where the fire started — that doesn’t have a strong burn history,” he said.

That part of the mountains hasn’t been aflame in anywhere from 50 to 75 years, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman John Miller.

That means the thick buildup of drought-dried vegetation in that area will burn hotter and spread flames faster.

Tuesday’s weather forecast for the area could be problematic. Temperatures are expected to reach as high as 90 southeast of Hesperia, the National Weather Service reports. The high temperatures will be accompanied by low humidity levels and wind gusts potentially reaching 30 mph.

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## Nearly 7,000 acres consumed in Pilot fire

By BEATRIZ VALENZUELA

2016-08-09 07:27:26



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## Pilot fire seen from Crestline

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By [Jose Quintero](#)[Print Page](#)

August 09, 2016 12:01AM

## Hesperia resident says it's 'scary feeling' to be told to evacuate

HESPERIA — Being told by authorities that you have to evacuate from your home as soon as possible is a scary feeling, said Hesperia resident Daniel Lowe as he watched firefighters battle flames along Highway 173 on Monday.

Lowe was among the many Hesperia residents forced from their homes by a wildfire that started Sunday afternoon. The Pilot Fire, which started near Silverwood Lake, had scorched nearly 6,300 acres and was threatening Hesperia and Lake Arrowhead, authorities said.

Lowe talked to a Daily Press reporter some 200 yards from the flames along the side of Highway 173.

"This is intense. I just had to come and see how close it's getting to my home," he said. "It was a scary feeling being told you have to evacuate. In the five years my wife and I have lived here we haven't had anything this close to our house. Her family lived in that home before us and they never had anything like this."

"There were the other fires more recently but they didn't have this kind of affect on us. All our neighbors all had to move their horses. Some took them to the fairgrounds, some have friends up here that they were able to leave the horses with. So there is a shared feeling of fear between us because we had to evacuate."

After the residents in Summit Valley and in Hesperia along Highway 173 south of Hesperia Lake were evacuated on Sunday, Ranchero Middle School was set up as an evacuation center. But the Red Cross center was moved to Oak Hills High School late Sunday night.

No local evacuees checked in to the center on Sunday night.

Lowe and his wife are staying with his parents in Apple Valley, he said.

Lowe, 26, said he lives on Wasaw Road with his wife and six dogs.

Instead of taking his dogs to the High Desert Event Center, 14800 Seventh St. in Victorville, which was being utilized for evacuees with pets, the dogs tagged along with the couple.

"They couldn't take the smoke anymore last night, so we took them to my parents and they are hanging out inside the garage with a swamp cooler," Lowe said. "We have my parents nearby so there was no need to go to the evacuation center. I don't think my neighbors went there either because they have friends or family nearby also. But it's great that it was set up for us."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160809/NEWS/160809753>

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By From staff reports

[Print Page](#)

August 09, 2016 6:54AM

## Fire officials say fire activity starting to 'pick up'

HESPERIA — Fire officials said at 8 a.m. they are already seeing the blaze picking up again after calming down overnight due to low winds and temperatures that dipped into the low 60s.

San Bernardino County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said fire crews are expecting another morning of low humidity and strong winds to pick up by noon.

Sherwin admitted a math mistake when telling the Daily Press that the blaze had grown to 7,522 acres following a staff briefing a little after 6:30 a.m.

Sherwin said the correct figures for the blaze Tuesday morning are 6,963 acres and 6 percent containment.

"Today we will have aircraft back on the fire working in conjunction with ground assets," Sherwin said. "We currently have 934 personnel assigned to the incident. We will have six air wing tankers, two very large air tankers and seven helicopters supporting ground ops."

Residents awoke Tuesday morning to a much clearer sky, as smoke from the Pilot Fire appeared greatly reduced from the previous two days.

The blaze grew from 4,500 acres to nearly 6,300 acres on Monday, causing authorities to evacuate 500 homes in southeast Hesperia, along with other evacuations, including a mandatory evacuations in Lake Arrowhead also. Monday's total of mandatory and voluntary evacuations due to the fire was 4,700.

An update on any additional evacuations was not available Tuesday morning.

"The dominant direction of the blaze is to north-northeast," Sherwin said. "However, we did experience growth of the fire on all sides."

Neighborhoods in the evacuation zone east of Santa Fe Avenue and south of Ranchero Road were quiet, but it was easy to see by the number of cars in driveways that many residents had elected to disregard the mandatory evacuation order that authorities implemented Monday afternoon.

Although Damon Road and Paisley Avenue south of Hesperia had been closed with police tape strung across lanes, many other streets south of Ranchero were open and residents were leaving for work.

Hesperia and Apple Valley schools are closed today, and a smoke advisory remains in effect for the entire Victor Valley.

At 6:50 a.m. there was no update to the incident command report on the massive fire, which began moving swiftly toward Lake Arrowhead, Crestline and Hesperia on Monday afternoon.

More than 840 personnel and 91 engines are battling the blaze, along with eight helicopters, eight air tankers and 14 fire crews.

This story will be updated throughout the day as more information becomes available.



Flames from the Pilot Fire rage in Summit Valley on Monday. James Quigg, Daily Press



## EDITORIAL: Don't ban festivals, make them safer

2016-08-08 18:40:19

The deaths of three young adults following the HARD Summer Music Festival at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana on July 30 and 31 have renewed calls for a ban on such events.

Electronic music festivals, sometimes referred to as “raves,” can draw hundreds of thousands of mostly young people for one, two or even three days of festivities.

For attendees, these can be enjoyable, safe events no more risky than a typical concert or music festival. For residents in the vicinity of these events, they can be a money-making opportunity, particularly for local business owners, or a headache, especially late at night. For local governments, they can provide an economic boost, but they can also be a cause of concern.

Such events have been held throughout Southern California for many years. As they have grown in popularity and frequency, however, they have also been subjected to increasing regulation and scrutiny from state and local governments.

Drug use, overheating and dehydration at such events occasionally lead to hospitalizations and even deaths of attendees. At least a dozen attendees are known to have lost their lives at electronic music festivals in Southern California since 2006.

The deaths last weekend have prompted San Bernardino County Supervisor Janice Rutherford to call for a ban on such events at county-owned facilities.

“In light of these recent deaths, the Board of Supervisors should seriously consider banning these events from taking place at the county-owned San Manuel Amphitheater in Devore. We cannot wait for more young lives to be lost before we decide enough is enough,” Supervisor Rutherford said in a statement.

At least one electronic music festival, Nocturnal Wonderlands, is currently scheduled at the San Manuel Amphitheater for Labor Day weekend. In June, a proposal from Rutherford to ban such events failed to get enough votes.

Earlier this year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors considered banning such events following deaths at county-owned facilities, but instead opted for the creation of “threat assessments,” through which promoters of events expected to draw more than 10,000 people must work with the county to minimize the potential risk of harm.

It must be acknowledged, regrettably, that even the best-prepared event can’t prevent all tragic outcomes. With this in mind, effective cooperation between local governments and event promoters, with an aim toward reaching an appropriate, functional level of safety and harm reduction, is preferable to knee-jerk bans.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## After home-invading bear shot, Forest Falls residents talk prevention

*By Beau Yarbrough, The Sun*

Monday, August 8, 2016



FOREST FALLS >> Before Julie Strauja's friend pulled the trigger, the black bear that was trying to enter her house for the third time in as many days was already as good as dead. It had been put on the road to death years before by people who had, accidentally or purposefully, made it unafraid of human beings and taught it that human dwellings meant easy food.

"A fed bear is a dead bear," Kevin Brennan, a biologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, told a community meeting of residents that filled Valley of the Falls Community Church on Monday night. "It's a cliche, but it's true."

In the late summer and early fall, before the berries and acorns that form the staple of black bears' natural diets are ready, bears who have learned that human habitations mean easy food come calling. That inevitably leads them into trouble.

"The same problems tend to occur over and over again: intentional feeding, unsecured garbage or pet food left out," Brennan said.

San Bernardino County sheriff's Deputy Paul Franklin, who serves in the Forest Falls area, had been aware of the bear killed at Strauja's home for years.

"Something caused that bear to get more aggressive," he said.

Strauja's home was invaded repeatedly in July.

She and her family used various means to drive the intruder away, including spraying it with mace. A deputy fired bean bag rounds to drive it away July 29.

"You can spray a bear with pepper spray, but he's going to come right back if he knows there's food there," Brennan said.

The intruder first broke into the house the night of July 28. The morning of July 29 it broke in again, attacking Strauja's dog.

That all stopped the morning of July 30, though. With a [depredation permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), a friend of Strauja's shot and killed the intruder when it tried to break into her house for a third day in a row.

Strauja and her family faced an [immediate backlash](#), including online death threats. But she's also heard from people who support her decision.

"I've gotten a ton of support, actually, with people saying 'I would have done the same thing,'" Strauja said before Monday's meeting. "I've had people stop by the house and apologize to me."

Unfortunately, the online bullying has continued.

"That's what made the situation so horrific: It wasn't the bear dying, it was the way people responded," she said.

A local resident was visited by the Sheriff's Department after she posted Strauja's address online and invited others to "make her life a living hell."

"I don't regret what I did," Strauja said. "My kids come first."

Brennan recommends Forest Falls residents double-bag their garbage, lock their dumpsters and trash cans and even take in their bird feeders and dirty barbecue grills.

"People who are attracting bears to their home, we can't issue a depredation permit until they clean that up," he said.

And under no circumstance should residents or visitors be intentionally feeding bears, as they're teaching them a deadly lesson.

"Intentional feeding is probably one of the most selfish things you can do," Brennan said. "That bear ends up dead."

Black bear populations have been rising, with more than 45,000 estimated statewide.

"California has more black bears than anywhere," Brennan said. "We've got no shortage of bears."

And for the most part, man and bear get along fine: Only 17 of the 220 calls about bears in the year 2000 were deemed actual public safety threats, Brennan said.

But it's the habituated ones, who regularly show up near homes — or in Strauja's case, in their kitchens — who run into the most trouble.

The bear situation will likely get worse before it gets better, residents were warned on Monday: Habituated bears tend to get more aggressive as food gets put away.

But the Forest Falls community is "moving in the right direction on this," Franklin said.

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/environment-and-nature/20160808/after-home-invading-bear-shot-forest-falls-residents-talk-prevention>

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## Woman: Burrito from Rancho Cucamonga Mexican restaurant made me sick, what health inspector found

*By Penny Arévalo, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

Monday, August 8, 2016

RANCHO CUCAMONGA >> A health inspector closed a Rancho Cucamonga Mexican restaurant after a patron complained about getting sick from food served there.

A woman notified the San Bernardino Environmental Health Services division that a carne asado burrito bought July 16 from Alberto's Mexican Food, 9538 Foothill Blvd., gave her nausea and diarrhea for the next 48 hours. Her sister had the same symptoms, she said.

The complaint prompted a visit July 21 from a health inspector, who found numerous violations, including:

- Uncooked meat was stored at 59.8 degrees in a refrigerated drawer
- The walk-in refrigerator's ambient temperature was 51.6 degrees
- Chicken in the walk-in measured 48.5 degrees
- The freezer's temperature was 53.3 degrees

The restaurant was promptly closed and has not been allowed to reopen yet.

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# Positive indicators for Saint Louis Encephalitis Virus found in Needles

Posted: Tuesday, August 9, 2016 7:24 am

The Saint Louis Encephalitis Virus (SLEV) has been detected in a flock of chickens in Needles-- the first positive indicator for the virus in San Bernardino County since 1997.

The Division of Environmental Health Service's Mosquito and Vector Control Program (MVCP) have sentinel chicken flocks in various locations throughout San Bernardino County to detect SLEV, a virus transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Two chickens from a sentinel flock in Needles tested positive for SLEV indicating an increased risk of infection to the public. Chickens are not harmed by the virus.

Most people who become infected with SLEV have no apparent symptoms. The initial symptoms of those who become ill include fever, headaches, dizziness, nausea, and fatigue. In some individuals, SLEV can develop into a more serious form of the disease, especially older adults. If one has been bitten by mosquitoes and is experiencing these symptoms, one should call a medical care provider.

Residents can protect themselves from SLEV by following these tips:

- Drain or Dump – Remove all standing water around property where mosquitoes can lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, flower pots, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- Dawn and Dusk – Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active.
- Dress – Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.
- DEET – Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- Doors – Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

To learn more about Saint Louis Encephalitis virus, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/sle/> For more information or to report a green pool or mosquito breeding source, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs>.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## Chinese businesses show interest in Inland Empire, Ontario airport

### Supervisor Curt Hagman makes trip to China to bolster international trade

*By Neil Nisperos, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

Monday, August 8, 2016



Chinese companies are showing interest in coming to the Inland Empire, including two major undisclosed Chinese airlines that could potentially land at L.A./Ontario International Airport.

The Beijing Yunjiang Management and Consulting Services Co., an investment firm, signed a letter of intent to drum up interest in helping fund and bring airlines to a planned international terminal at the airport.

Representatives of the firm met with Curt Hagman, an Ontario International Airport Authority commissioner and San Bernardino County supervisor, during a recent nine-day trip he made to China as part of ongoing efforts to bolster international trade and business for the Inland Empire and toward expansion and growth of the airport.

“We immediately went to work in negotiating with the top airlines for this project, and had some very substantial discussions with the related investment entities and construction of the air terminal project and the auxiliary development with the terminal project,” according to a letter to Hagman from Jinjiang Yu, president of the investment firm.

Hagman has traveled to China on trade missions since his days as a state assemblyman, from 2008 to 2014.

“I’ve been to six cities in eight days, and we’re basically letting people know in Asia what to do to locate businesses in San Bernardino County,” Hagman said.

In the letter, Yu also said his company intends to form a U.S.-based company to handle the venture, and added, “We look forward in working with you in this tremendous opportunity of building our relationship and to create jobs and investment opportunities in San Bernardino County.”

Hagman said the airport authority vision for the next few years includes a new international terminal, an upgrade of terminals 2 and 4, a parking structure, hotels, restaurants and shops.

“It’s everything on a grand scale,” Hagman said. “We want to make it a first-class international airport.”

Hagman’s trip also resulted in a tentative discussion with a Chinese construction company to potentially handle infrastructure and facility expansion at the airport, potential for a TISCO steel factory to open in the region, and development of an economic relationship between the manufacturing city of Taiyuan and San Bernardino County. Taiyuan is the capital and largest city of Shanxi province in northern China.

TISCO is the largest stainless steel manufacturer in China, Hagman said.

"They were just reaching out to us in San Bernardino County to find out how to get a location and what the rules and regulations are," Hagman said.

John Husing, chief economist for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership and major proponent of local control for the airport, said Asian investors and companies choose to do business in the Inland Empire because of cheaper land and space costs, a large workforce and cultural ties to large Asian immigrant populations in the region.

"We would like to get some Chinese manufacturers into the Inland Empire no question, and I know Curt has been working with some of those issues," Husing said. "They would very much like to have a relationship with California and the best place to be is out here because the cost of space is lower, the availability of workers is strong and it puts them inside one of the largest markets in the United States in terms of Southern California."

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/business/20160808/chinese-businesses-show-interest-in-inland-empire-ontario-airport>

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## Feds: Disabled students in San Bernardino County alternative, juvenile court schools getting inadequate education

By Beau Yarbrough, The Sun

Monday, August 8, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> Disabled students in the county's 14 alternative schools and two juvenile court schools aren't getting the education they're legally entitled to. But the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools has promised that will change.

On Friday, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights announced they had come to an [agreement](#) after an investigation into alleged discrimination against students with disabilities in alternative and juvenile court schools.

"All students, including students in alternative and juvenile court schools, deserve equal access to a high-quality public education," Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant secretary for OCR, said in a press release announcing the resolution agreement.

[According to the office's investigation](#), county-run alternative and juvenile court schools violated Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in multiple ways:

- "Lacked an adequate system to identify and evaluate students with suspected disabilities."
- "Failed to comply with the legal requirement to conduct an individualized determination of student needs for students with disabilities."
- "Provided a fixed predetermined amount of specialized instructional time that a student would receive, automatically reducing any higher service levels provided for an individual student special education plans."
- "Failed to implement the specialized instruction and related services, such as speech therapy, required in existing individualized education programs, and did not have a system in place to track service provision or provide makeup services to students when services were not provided."
- "Failed to have a reliable system for monitoring evaluation and re-evaluation requests and the receipt of records from transferring districts that identify students with disabilities and required services."
- "Failed to have a reliable system for recording records from transferring districts that identify students with disabilities and required services."
- "Failed to train staff on the requirements related to Section 504 and how to identify and develop plans for accommodating and providing aids and services to students with disabilities identified under Section 504."
- "Relied on paraeducators instead of special education teachers to provide specialized instruction to students with disabilities."

(“Paraeducators” are a variety of teachers aides, often used in special education, who help in the classroom but who don’t typically have a teaching certification.)

Friday’s formal agreement requires the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools to better track students entering and leaving schools; hire a project manager to assess the issues identified and come up with a plan to address them; review the individualized education plans to see if changes were made to them; revise existing policies and procedures to make sure they comply with the law; conduct additional training for paraeducators; and hold a meeting with special education program staff and county and school staff to improve services for disabled students.

The county also agreed to develop a system to make sure students with disabilities are not illegally disciplined based on their disabilities.

“In providing strong and effective systems to identify, evaluate and serve students with disabilities, these schools can stop the cycle of revolving placements, place students with disabilities on a path to educational success, and remove them from the school-to-prison pipeline,” Lhamon said in the press release.

The OCR’s investigation began in June 2014, before Ted Alejandre was elected superintendent, according to Christine McGrew, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

“At that time, county schools’ staff were told by OCR that if there were any major compliance concerns, our office would hear back from them right away,” McGrew wrote in an email.

During the two years of the investigation, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools had “ongoing communication and collaboration” with the Department of Education to address many of the issues raised, including implementing a “comprehensive monitoring and assessment system and student record-keeping system,” “enhanced training of all special education program staff,” updating policies and hiring a project manager to bring county practices into alignment with federal regulations.

“We are very proud of our programs and staff, and confident we are providing the highest quality services to our students,” McGrew’s email concluded. “As such, we will be responsive to any additional findings in the OCR report moving forward to ensure all of our students receive the education they deserve.”

Lhamon praised the county’s cooperation in the investigation and its response.

“I am grateful for the county’s responsiveness during the course of the compliance review, as well as its commitment going forward to take necessary steps to protect the civil rights of students with disabilities who are in an alternative education program,” she said in the press release.

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160808/feds-disabled-students-in-san-bernardino-county-alternative-juvenile-court-schools-getting-inadequate-education>

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## Upland fire chief placed on administrative leave

### Upland fire chief placed on administrative leave

*By Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

Tuesday, August 9, 2016



UPLAND >> Fire Chief Paul Segalla has been placed on administrative leave.

Interim City Manager Martin Thouvenell said Monday night he placed Segalla on leave that morning but gave no other details.

“It’s a personnel matter, and I can’t discuss it,” Thouvenell said.

[Segalla has been with the department since November](#) after replacing then-fire chief Rick Mayhew who retired in July 2015.

The [former chief of the Chino Valley Independent Fire District](#), Segalla oversaw both the Upland and Montclair fire departments, which were [unified in January 2014](#) as a cost savings for both cities. He previously served as fire chief for West Covina’s fire department.

He has an annual salary of \$161,196.

More to come.

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## Upland mayor will not seek re-election

*By Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

Tuesday, August 9, 2016



UPLAND >> Mayor Ray Musser announced Monday night he would not seek another term after serving 18 years in office.

Reading from a memo to residents, Musser shared his decision at the end of the council meeting.

"It has been a very high honor to serve as your mayor for 'the greatest city on planet Earth.' However, I have decided not to seek another term as mayor of Upland and to spend more time with our family. May God bless you and my successor," he read.

He was first elected to the council in 1998. Musser won re-election in 2002, 2006 and 2010, was [appointed to the office of mayor](#) Feb. 28, 2011, and elected mayor in 2012.

For months, there was speculation about whether or not he would seek re-election. It was only fueled by comments — or lack of comments — from Musser who wouldn't say if he was going for a full third term.

Following the meeting, Musser acknowledged he didn't make his mind up until last week.

"It was a very hard decision," he said. "I enjoy it. I love to give."

But the last two years have been taxing for Musser, who turns 81 next month. He said he has worked full-time in his mayoral role with limited city staff support while his wife, Fern, has had to take on the majority of responsibilities for his insurance business.

*More to come.*

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## Few Inland public worker pensions among highest

*By Alicia Robinson, The Press-Enterprise*

Monday, August 8, 2016

High-earning state and local government retirees are scattered around the state, with no one city or agency dominating the list of the biggest pension payouts in 2015, data from an open records advocacy group show.

On Monday, Transparent California, a public employee pay website run by a Nevada-based think tank, released 2015 figures for pension payments from the California Public Employees' Retirement System, or CalPERS. State pension data are public, but spokesman Robert Fellner said [the group compiled the most recent annual numbers](#) for about 625,000 retirees and made them widely accessible in a searchable database.

Including health care and other benefits, the highest payout statewide in 2015 was more than \$500,000, but it went to Linda R. Ladd, whom the database lists as the beneficiary of a retiree from Santa Ana.

Beneficiaries may be a spouse or relative of a deceased worker, but Fellner said CalPERS does not give such details, and CalPERS spokeswoman Amy Morgan could not immediately clarify Ladd's relationship to the retiree.

James D. Tierney, a retiree from Ontario, ranked third on the list with a 2015 payment of \$458,524. Fellner couldn't explain the discrepancy between that total and a reported monthly payout that came to less than \$30,000 for the year.

The group reported that Tierney retired in 1992 after 6.7 years in the CalPERS system, so it's unclear why he would receive such a large payout. CalPERS pensions are typically based on a percentage of the employee's highest pay times their years of service.

CalPERS' Morgan was checking into Tierney's case Monday afternoon.

Another 12 payouts topped \$300,000, though in more than half of them, the group said the amount might include a one-time settlement, such as earned vacation pay.

### Cities paying out the most

Fellner's group also ranked cities with at least 20 "full-career" retirees that paid the highest average pensions. A full-career worker is one with 30 or more years of service.

Moreno Valley, San Marcos and Santa Fe Springs made the top three for non-safety workers, with Irvine and Yorba Linda within the 20 highest average pensions. Vacaville, El Segundo and El Monte topped the list for public safety employees, with Pasadena in sixth place and Redlands at No. 12.

Transparent California's goal is to give taxpayers, elected officials and everyone else "complete, accurate information" about what pensions cost, Fellner said. Retiree costs are sometimes given as averages, which can be misleading because CalPERS beneficiaries include people with only a few years of service, he said.

Others level the same criticism at Transparent California and its data.

## Criticism lobbed

Six-figure pension payouts are “the exception, not the rule,” said Steve Maviglio, spokesman for Californians for Retirement Security, which represents current and former public employees.

“Focusing on the large pensions of a few is like looking at the CEO of McDonald’s salary and extrapolating that to all McDonald’s employees,” he said.

Maviglio’s group, also citing CalPERS data, puts the average public worker pension at \$2,940 a month, or \$35,340 annually, and notes that some pensioned retirees can’t collect Social Security.

Public worker retirement benefits have been shrinking, both because of a recent state pension reform law and local concessions, Maviglio said. But pensions are “essential to attract and retain quality public employees,” he added.

## Inland numbers

The biggest 2015 payouts in the Inland area — which encompasses Riverside and San Bernardino counties, except for San Bernardino County government, which is not part of CalPERS — included \$291,780 to an Indio employee who retired in 2010 with more than 38 years of service, and \$254,824 paid to David L. “Larry” Parrish, who retired as Riverside County’s executive officer in 2008 after more than 30 years of service.

Riverside County spokesman Ivan Chand declined to comment on Parrish’s pension.

Transparent California’s database includes the retiree’s name, employer, years of service, year of retirement and 2015 pension amount, but not always the job title before retirement.

One problem with generous pensions, Fellner said, is they push costs years into the future. Elected officials find it easy to increase pensions because the public may not raise the same concerns as they would with salary hikes, he said.

“Once the public is empowered with this information (in the database), they’ll be in a better position to hold their elected officials accountable.”

## Generous Benefits?

Transparent California, a Nevada-based think tank, calculated average pensions for retired city employees who worked at least 30 years in government. Here are statistics for police and fire and non-safety retirees from select Inland cities and Riverside County.

- Corona: Non-safety, \$77,790; safety, \$111,164
- Hemet: Non-safety, \$70,131; safety, \$99,121
- Moreno Valley: Non-safety, \$102,492; safety, not applicable\*
- Ontario: Non-safety, \$51,669; safety, \$114,777
- Redlands: Non-safety, \$47,094; safety, \$124,555

*\* Cities do not have a state retirement plan for safety employees.*

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## How Inland vape shops are handling all the new e-cig rules

By Gregory J. Wilcox, Los Angeles Daily News

Monday, August 8, 2016



New [federal regulations](#) kicked in Monday for electronic cigarettes and some tobacco-related products, giving the Food and Drug Administration greater control over what can be sold and limiting the way retailers interact with customers.

Such restrictions, however, are nothing new to California's owners and operators of "vape bars," where customers gather to smoke e-cigs. Two months ago the state launched its own restrictions, including raising the legal [age for all smoking from 18 to 21](#).

All products that use a device in which a flavored liquid is heated into vapor so it can be inhaled must now earn government approval. Also, merchants can no longer give free samples to customers, must ask customers for age-verifying identification and cannot claim that their products help smokers quit tobacco, store owners say.

That last part is going to hurt. A lot, said David Baleno, owner of Ontario-based Everlast Vapor. He's estimating a 50-percent hit to his bottom line.

Baleno, himself a smoker for 33 years, said he quit through the use of vaping, and decided to set up a shop five years ago in Ontario because he believed in the benefit of the product to help smokers.

"We feel this whole thing is the most ridiculous thing that's ever occurred in this country," Baleno said. "We feel that the government has been bought out by big tobacco and want people to die of cancer."

The new regulations also cover hand-rolled cigars, hookahs and pipe tobacco.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials now must assess all e-cigarette products available since 2007. To stay on store shelves, nearly every vaping product must secure FDA approval, though manufacturers will be able to keep selling their wares for up to two years during the application process and for a year during FDA review.

The American Lung Association embraces the new rules — and wanted the government to go even further.

"Youth are using e-cigarettes at an increasing and alarming rate. E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product by youth," said Harold P. Wimmer, national president and CEO of the association, in a statement.

The FDA fears that e-smokers, who are often attracted by the wide variety of vapor colors and flavors, will simply become tobacco consumers.

Wimmer agrees.

"The most common reasons for trying e-cigarettes included curiosity about e-cigarettes, good flavors and friends' use."

**Demand exists**

While smoking is generally declining for teenagers, e-cigarette use is on the upswing. Among high school students, it rose from 1.5 percent in 2011 to 15 percent in 2015, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 3 million middle- and high school students use e-cigarettes, the CDC says.

But Baleno said it works both ways.

"We get a lot of older citizens all the time and they come with their sons and daughters who are of age," Baleno said. "They say, 'I want my dad to start vaping,' and I would go ahead and tell them what it does for you compared to cigarettes."

Lacey Miller, owner of The Vapour Lounge in Rancho Cucamonga, said she thinks the new regulations will give potential vaping consumers pause, "because they're not quite sure what's going on with it."

Miller said shop owners think the new regulations are ridiculous.

"They haven't done their own independent studies," Miller said. "They're just going off on what they think."

**The impact of age minimums**

Carlos Montolfo, co-owner of Loyalty Vape in Riverside, said raising the age minimum to 21 knocked out close to one-fourth of his shop's business overnight, given his proximity to the campus of UC Riverside, although sales have rebounded a little since then.

The free sample ban will have an impact, too, he said, forcing operators to focus more on service and building a base of repeat customers.

"I've always considered a vape shop to be like a barber shop," Montolfo said. "You'll drive a little farther if you like your barber."

As for e-cigarette juices, some shops sell more than 100. Montolfo said because his shop is one of the smaller ones, he offers fewer varieties — about 50 — that tend to sell well. Flipping through a menu of flavors is like reading the choices on an ice cream shop sign: watermelon bubble gum, lemon blueberry pound cake, deep-fried ice cream with cinnamon apples, and more.

**Trade group takes stand**

The American Vaping Association warned that new rules on vapor products will harm public health and close thousands of businesses.

"It is a misnomer to refer to what the FDA is doing as 'regulation,'" said Gregory Conley, AVA president. "This isn't regulation; it's prohibition for all but big tobacco and perhaps a couple of companies with big Wall Street investments."

Based on the quality of the product, Miller remains optimistic about the industry.

"I think in the long run, it will be OK," Miller said.

*Staff writers Neil Nisperos, Sandy Mazza and David Downey contributed to this report.*

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## Why Inland schools are rethinking how they teach science

### Experiments and hands-on learning are part of standards adopted statewide

By Stephen Wall, *The Press-Enterprise*

Monday, August 8, 2016



Emerson Treacy remembers the old ways of teaching the changing properties of matter.

Twenty years ago, the Riverside Unified School District elementary teacher relied heavily on the textbook and lectures in his lessons about solids, liquids and gases. Students studied and memorized the concepts and answered multiple-choice questions.

Treacy has a different approach these days.

Rather than start with vocabulary and concepts, he first lets his third-graders do experiments and hands-on activities. They use problem-solving skills to form their own conclusions, which makes learning fun and helps them remember the material.

"They've done it and experienced it, so it's more personal and meaningful," said Treacy, who teaches at Mountain View Elementary School.

This model is a key part of a statewide shift in science instruction. Inland districts are rolling out what's known as the Next Generation Science Standards, which identify ideas and practices all students should learn by the end of high school. They go with the Common Core State Standards for math and English.

The new science standards, adopted by the state in 2013, aim to help deepen students' knowledge of physical science, life science, Earth science and engineering. The state is creating new guidelines for teaching the standards in kindergarten through 12th grade. The state Board of Education could approve them in November.

New state tests based on the standards won't start until 2019, but many Inland teachers already are putting them into practice in classrooms.

The Rialto Unified School District won a \$1.5 million state grant that included money to train teachers at most schools to mix science concepts into lessons in other subjects.

The district also teamed with the San Bernardino County superintendent of schools office to write the curriculum for high school classes that prepares students for jobs in the water industry. The courses are being piloted this year, said Juanita Chan, science lead in the district's professional development center.

Students also can take classes leading to robotics and computer science careers.

Chan said the goal is not to make every student a scientist but to ensure that all kids are "scientifically literate."

In other words, they should be able to use their knowledge to make logical decisions based on evidence, Chan said.

At Riverside Unified, about 70 elementary school teachers representing 24 schools attended a two-week training session through Monday. The district received a three-year federal grant for the Science Renaissance Project, which aims to expand teachers' science knowledge while offering strategies to connect the curriculum to the real world. With the training, led by local college and university professors, they can act as master teachers on their respective campuses and help other instructors grasp the new teaching methods.

"We need to do science, not just study and read about science," said Shannon Dadlez, project director.

In one lesson, teachers worked in groups on an experiment about how solids change into liquids by observing how fast objects melt when placed into hot water. They wrote what happened and drew models in notebooks. Later, they discussed the findings with their peers.

Dannylle Wilson, who teaches sixth grade at Magnolia Elementary School in Riverside, said she's already weaving the new science standards into her lessons and trying to get youths to consider science-related careers.

She talked about one of her hard-to-motivate students who loved science experiments but was interested in becoming a police officer. Wilson told him that while that's a great profession, she encouraged him to think about turning that interest to a job in forensics or chemical engineering.

"It's realizing that science is all around you," Wilson said. "They think it's an isolated subject. We need to relate it to real-life events."

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160808/why-inland-schools-are-rethinking-how-they-teach-science>

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# **Impounded animals up for adoption; former owner wants them back**

By Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star | Posted: Friday, August 5, 2016 6:34 pm

SAN BERNARDINO — Animals seized by officers from a Morongo Valley property in June are now available for adoption, while the property owner starts a legal battle with San Bernardino County.

County animal control officers seized 181 animals from Stephen Caro's Paws Pet Ranch on June 22 and 24, after finding one dog that had died while tethered on a short chain in the sun and spotting other dogs that looked thin. The animals, including dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs that were living in the backyard and a small house, have been held at shelters in Yucca Valley, Devore and Apple Valley since then.

San Bernardino County is now offering 96 of the animals for adoption.

In the meantime, however, Caro has hired an attorney and is moving to recover the animals himself and prevent the county from euthanizing any of them.

"The hope is always been to get the dogs out without the shelters killing any of them," Caro said in a brief telephone conversation Tuesday.

All three of the shelters where the animals are staying euthanize animals when they need space as more animals come in. Spokespeople at the Apple Valley and Yucca Valley shelters said Thursday none of the dogs or cats they've been holding have been put down.

Two cats taken to the Yucca Valley shelter actually belonged to someone else who had asked Caro to pet sit them, according to Yucca Valley animal control manager Douglas Smith. "That person came in today and claimed his cats," Smith said.

Four more cats have microchips registered to an animal organization that is sending a volunteer to claim them.

None of the seized animals have been euthanized to make room at the Devore animal shelter either, animal control program manager Greg Beck said Thursday. There are no guarantees, though.

"We have animals coming in every day; we have to do something for space," Beck said.

"Shelter staff makes a decision every day based on the population as a whole," he added. "We do our best, but there are always more animals coming in."

## **Lawyer files against county**

Caro's attorney, Christopher Sabol, filed a petition in county court July 21 asking a judge to hold a hearing on the seizure of the animals and to order animal control not to euthanize any of them.

The petition describes Paws Pet Ranch as a nonprofit corporation whose mission is "to care for old, sick and unwanted animals and to prevent animals from being euthanized when preferable alternatives are available."

The court filing accuses San Bernardino County of failing to recognize Caro's legal rights and derides a July 6 hearing held by the county, where an animal control officer not involved in the case acted as a judicial officer, heard testimony and ruled that the seizures were legally justified.

Calling it "the so-called hearing," Caro's attorney writes that it "had the look of due process with none of the substance."

Sabol alleges he was not allowed to call witnesses and animal control "provided no reasonable basis for seizing every animal on Paws Pet Ranch's property."

"A fellow San Bernardino County Animal Control officer presided at the hearing and supported her colleagues with a favorable ruling of a proper seizure," he alleges.

The attorney is asking that a judge intervene and return all of the animals to Paws Pet Ranch.

He is seeking an immediate order that no animals seized from Paws Rescue Ranch may be euthanized without the court's approval.

A hearing on the petition has not yet been set.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## Kaiser Permanente announces \$731,000 in grants to nonprofits serving San Bernardino County

*By Jim Steinberg, The Sun*

Monday, August 8, 2016

FONTANA >> Kaiser Permanente is handing out \$731,000 in grants to more than 60 nonprofit organizations that provide free or low-cost programs and services to the underserved and uninsured throughout San Bernardino County.

“Kaiser Permanente strives to help eliminate health disparities and build healthier communities,” said Greg Christian, senior vice president and area manager for Kaiser Permanente San Bernardino County Area.

“We couldn’t do that without strong partnerships, like the ones we have with these organizations in San Bernardino County. Now more than ever, these partnerships are vital,” Christian said in a statement.

The grants were divvied up in increments between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Among the recipients were Victor Valley Community Services Council (\$15,000), city of San Bernardino — Parks, Recreation and Community Service Department (\$15,000), Youth Action Project (\$20,000), Pomona Community Health Center (\$20,000), Inland Empire United Way (\$10,000) and Catholic Charities of San Bernardino/Riverside (\$9,500).

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/health/20160808/kaiser-permanente-announces-731000-in-grants-to-nonprofits-serving-san-bernardino-county>

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By [Mike Lamb](#)

[Print Page](#)

August 08, 2016 6:35PM

## New general manager: Yermo 'running smoothly'

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YERMO — The Community Service District appears to rebounding from a political shakeup and fiscal crisis that was declared in July.

"We are not in terrible shape," new General Manager Vickie Paulsen said Monday. "It seems to be running fairly smoothly."

Paulsen has been working to get the district office in shape since she was appointed in July. She is currently taking care of the last item of unfinished business with the Local Agency Formation Commission of San Bernardino County. She said the district's audit report will be sent to LAFCO on Wednesday.

Hours of operation is one of the major changes at the district office. It is now open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Previously, the office was not open on some days during the week.

Meanwhile, the board of directors face a long meeting tonight with 19 items on the agenda. Board President Michael Cint said the 6 p.m. meeting will start with a closed session that he expects will last 30 minutes.

Interviewing candidates for one of the two open director seats is the first item on the agenda. The agenda also calls for appointing and swearing in of the new director. Cint said there are two candidates so far, but he's expecting more applications before the meeting.

"The more candidates we have, the more of a chance we have in getting good people," Paulsen said.

The third action item calls for a vote on board positions. Presently the board consists of Cint, Vice President Clarissa Loehr and Fire Commissioner Gary Yearsley.

Another item on the agenda will help Paulsen with banks and other agencies who right now refuse to deal with anybody but the president of the board. A vote on a policy clarification will give Paulsen the power to deal with those agencies directly, according to Cint.

The board will also be voting on setting the meeting stipend for each director at \$100. Presently, the vice president and president are compensated at \$150.

Another proposed policy change will no longer allow to directors to carry district credit cards. Cint said directors would be compensated with the government per diem rate when being reimbursed for meals, lodging and travel. He said a credit card may be assigned to a director for special events such as a business trip.

One of the last items calls for a motion to approve the district bank to issue three credit cards to the general manager.

*Mike Lamb can be reached at 760-957-0613 or [mlamb@deserdispatch.com](mailto:mlamb@deserdispatch.com). You can also follow him on Twitter @mlamb@dispatch*

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<http://www.deserdispatch.com/article/20160808/NEWS/160809924>

[Print Page](#)

# CASSIE MACDUFF



Press-Enterprise/PE.com regional columnist-blogger

## Money problems bring out the worst in some folks

August 7th, 2016, 9:38 pm .

*Riverside County officials had their tensions showing as they grappled with a big budget shortfall. District attorney and one supervisor took fire from some of the supervisors.*



Riverside County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Benoit hopes budget crisis will help District Attorney Mike Hestrin become a “strong manager.”

FILE PHOTO

Money worries are a major source of marital strife.

Apparently, they have the same effect on county supervisors.

The tensions came spilling out into the open at the July 26 Riverside County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Like a loud quarrel in a building with thin walls, the frayed relationships were on full display and all the neighbors could know just how dirty the fight got.

In a shocking news release the day after the meeting, the supes publicly belittled District Attorney Mike Hestrin, calling him out for youth and inexperience.

Board Chairman John Benoit referred to Hestrin as a “first-term D.A. who hasn’t managed through financial adversity before.”

He advised Hestrin to “take a breath” and said he hoped the challenge would help Hestrin “become a strong manager.”

Wow. I’ve never seen anything like it in 30 years covering local government.

During the meeting itself, Supervisor John Tavaglione accused Supervisor Kevin Jeffries of having “crazy ideas” and “stupid ideas” and “throwing hand grenades.”

Jeffries replied that Tavaglione’s remarks were shameful and they hurt.

At times like this, I wish there were a woman on the Board of Supervisors to say, “Boys, boys, calm down. Keep your shirts on.”

At the heart of the dysfunction (to use Hestrin’s word) is a busted county bank account.

Riverside County needs about \$80 million more than it is going to have this year.

A jail lawsuit settlement will cost about \$40 million to remedy, property tax revenue that plunged in the recession hasn’t recovered, and union contracts require raises and benefit increases the county can’t afford.

County executive Jay Orr said public safety – including the Sheriff’s Department and District Attorney’s Office – has been protected from budget cuts, growing while other county services – public health, child welfare – have been cut drastically.

Sheriff Stan Sniff is managing to live within the budget the county set for him, Orr said. So are the probation department and public defender.

FILE PHOTO

Non-public safety departments “have all shown leadership,” Orr said, adding, “It’s time for everyone to pull together” to reduce the county deficit.

Sniff was called a team player, the obvious implication being that Hestrin is not one.

I met with Hestrin Thursday afternoon to hear how all of this is sitting with him. “I’m not going to hurl insults back at them,” Hestrin said, adding, “It’s not helpful.

"I never lost my cool; I was firm," Hestrin said. He and the supervisors are having a policy disagreement, he said, and he will continue to press his case for more funding with the board and the public.

If he doesn't get enough money to cover the salaries of the people currently employed in his office, he'll have no choice but to impose layoffs. He's looking for direction from the supervisors to know if that's what they want.

Hestrin did allow that he was shocked at the way Tavaglione spoke to Jeffries. "Some real tensions are coming to the surface," he said.

Jeffries told me by email that he was taken by complete surprise at the outbursts at the last two board meetings, "the most recent outburst being much more vicious and personal."

When the county is deficit-spending at \$1.17 million per week, Jeffries said, he believes the entire board needs to examine spending priorities or he fears the budget situation will get worse, necessitating deeper cuts.

Tavaglione might consider Jeffries' ideas crazy, but Jeffries' bringing them up during public board meetings might be the real problem.

That's a philosophical difference I've seen on other public panels. Some officials prefer to have substantive discussions out in the open; others prefer for differences to be hashed out before official meetings.

Either way, Riverside County's budget crisis has brought out the worst in its elected leadership.

The squabbling and sniping between otherwise dignified officials gives the impression of an organization in disarray. And disarray isn't a good place from which to manage a crisis.

Benoit and Hestrin are going to meet with Orr and his top budget official this month. Jeffries is going to meet with Tavaglione.

Hopefully, they'll work out their differences and come up with a plan for serving the public well on reduced funds. Because that's the reality today.

**Contact the writer:** 951-368-9470 or [cmacduff@PE.com](mailto:cmacduff@PE.com)

# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## The '100K Club' - public retirees with pensions over \$100,000 - are a growing group

[TERI SFORZA](#)

2016-08-08 20:25:12



Back in 2005, just 1,841 retirees pulled down more than \$100,000 a year in pension checks from the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

A decade later, membership in the so-called \$100K Club had swelled by nearly 20,000 souls.

CalPERS data provided to the conservative-leaning group [Transparent California](#), and analyzed by the Register, found that 21,652 public retirees received annual benefits of more than \$100,000 in 2015.

That's a jump of 28 percent in just two years – which might seem jarring at first blush, but actually represents a slowdown in the club's explosive growth of late. Between 2005 and 2009, membership in CalPERS' \$100K Club tripled. Then, between 2009 and 2013, it nearly tripled again, largely a function of higher working salaries and more generous retirement formulas.

Orange County landed just one retired worker on the Top 25 statewide: Dave Ream, longtime Santa Ana city manager, at \$263,202. Los Angeles-area cities, special districts and universities dominated the Top 25.

### 'ZEALOTS'

Tracking this number is a controversial endeavor.

"What makes the '\$100,000 Club' some magic number denoting abuse other than the claims of anti-pension zealots?" said Dave Low, chairman of Californians for Retirement Security, a coalition of 1.6 million public workers and retirees.

"The classifications in the 'club' are doctors, lawyers, hospital administrators, city managers, superintendents, college chancellors and presidents, etc., who are often earning far less than their counterparts in the private sector," Low said.

The average CalPERS pension is less than one-third of that, said Amy Morgan, spokeswoman for CalPERS.

But advocates for major public pension reform cite the \$100K Club boom as evidence that the system – which guarantees payouts for life, regardless of whether CalPERS has enough money – is unsustainable over the long haul and must be revamped to protect taxpayers, who are ultimately on the hook.

"What this information does is remove the shroud that defines public pensions and lets people see what things cost," said Robert Fellner, research director for Transparent California.

"Contrary to the incredibly misleading averages they cite – which include people who worked for just a couple of years but still get a pension, which pulls down the average – you see the benefits are rich when you look at the folks who worked a full career. There aren't people who work a full career and get the average pension."

Our spin through the data shows that the average pension for retirees with 25 or more years of service – roughly one-third of the people in the system – was \$55,189.

## SMALL SLICE

CalPERS has pointed out that the \$100K Club has remained relatively stable at 2 percent to 3 percent of the total pool of retirees through the years. In 2013, we calculated the club at 2.9 percent of all retirees; for 2015, we calculated it at 3.5 percent.

"Measuring the percentage increase is an absurd measure, as the number was low and continues to be so as part of the overall workforce," said Steven Maviglio, spokesman for Californians for Retirement Security. "Of the top earners, these employees tend to be upper management or public safety workers who have put substantial hours of OT on the job – and have no Social Security."

Unlike in the private sector, about 29 percent of CalPERS retirees don't get Social Security benefits, said Morgan, CalPERS' spokeswoman, so their CalPERS pension may be their sole source of retirement income.

Though pension reforms for new hires enacted in 2013 will eventually make it much harder to crack the \$100K Club – even for upper management – it will take decades before those new hires retire, and the effects are seen.

That means membership in the club will keep growing, "if for no other reason (than) because salaries will go up over time," Low said.

## IN O.C.

Transparent California found that, in all, 1,495 Orange County retirees collected benefits worth at least \$100,000, an 11 percent increase from last year.

The list is dominated at the top by city managers, but public safety officers largely round it out.

In California, public pension promises are considered etched in stone and cannot be altered, at least not outside of federal bankruptcy court.

Most cities and special districts in Orange County – and statewide – contract with CalPERS to run their retirement systems. It covers all state workers as well. CalPERS is the largest public retirement system in the world and largely viewed as a bellwether and a trendsetter.

Climbing unfunded liabilities, weak investment earnings and expectations for less-robust earnings over the next 30 years are fueling cries for reform.

"The next governor will have a big job on his/her hands," said state Sen. John Moorlach, R-Costa Mesa, long a pension-reform warrior. "And if the nation enters its next recession, the situation will get even bleaker."

## TOP 25 PUBLIC RETIREES IN CALIFORNIA\*

### Name, Employer, Pension

Michael D. Johnson	Solano County	\$388,408
Stephen R. Maguin	Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 2	340,811
Joaquin M. Fuster	UCLA	338,412
Donald R. Gerth	Cal State Sacramento	317,324
William Garrett	EI Cajon	311,365
James F. Stahl	Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 2	301,802

Gilbert F. Ivey	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	127,578
Glenn D. Southard	Indio	291,780
John D. Schlag	UCLA	291,690
Randy G. Adams	Bell	288,378
John W. Distasio	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	284,673
Julius Schachter	UC San Francisco	278,237
Kevin C. Duggan	Mountain View	274,602
Roderick J. Wood	Beverly Hills	269,687
Philip H. Kamlarz	Berkeley	264,986
Robert W. Toone Jr.	Palmdale	264,558
Dianne C. Oki	State Compensation Insurance Fund	263,659
David N. Ream	Santa Ana	263,202
David A. Brenninger	Placer County Water Agency	190,904
Warren J. Baker	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	259,104
Quang T. Ho	Solano County	258,918
Carl Boronkay	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	256,548
David L. Parrish	Riverside County	254,824
Kenneth C. Bollier	State Compensation Insurance Fund	254,289
Dale T. Geldert	Beverly Hills	253,112

\* Annualized figures omit one-time settlement payouts, which skewed true annual benefits going forward.

**TOP RETIREES IN O.C.****Name, Employer, Pension**

David N. Ream	Santa Ana	\$263,202
James D. Ruth	Anaheim	249,851
Timothy D. Riley	Newport Beach	244,904
Kenneth C. Frank	Laguna Beach	241,902
David L. Rudat	Orange	229,863
Gary E. Johnson	Anaheim	224,182
John L. Nelson	Orange County Schools	222,544
Tim F. O'Donnell	Brea	215,654
Homer L. Bludau	Newport Beach	215,135
Marc E. Martin	Santa Ana	213,078
Elisa M. Stipkovich	Anaheim	212,829
Harry D. Hill	Anaheim	212,027
Keith M. Jones	Costa Mesa	211,451
John J. Klein	Newport Beach	210,122
Roger E. Smith	Anaheim	208,239
Jack L. White	Anaheim	207,725
Steven R. Lewis	Newport Beach	207,535
Duane S. Olson	Huntington Beach	207,138
Gregg A. Steward	Costa Mesa	207,089

Steven N. Murray	California State University at Fullerton	202,903
Thomas C. Monson	Buena Park	201,083
Donald D. Lamm	Westminster	200,121
David M. Morgan	Anaheim	199,812
Thomas E. Gazsi	Costa Mesa	198,353
William G. Sweeney	Anaheim	197,813
Arthur C. Simonian	Yorba Linda	197,493

SOURCE: California Public Employees' Retirement System; Transparent California

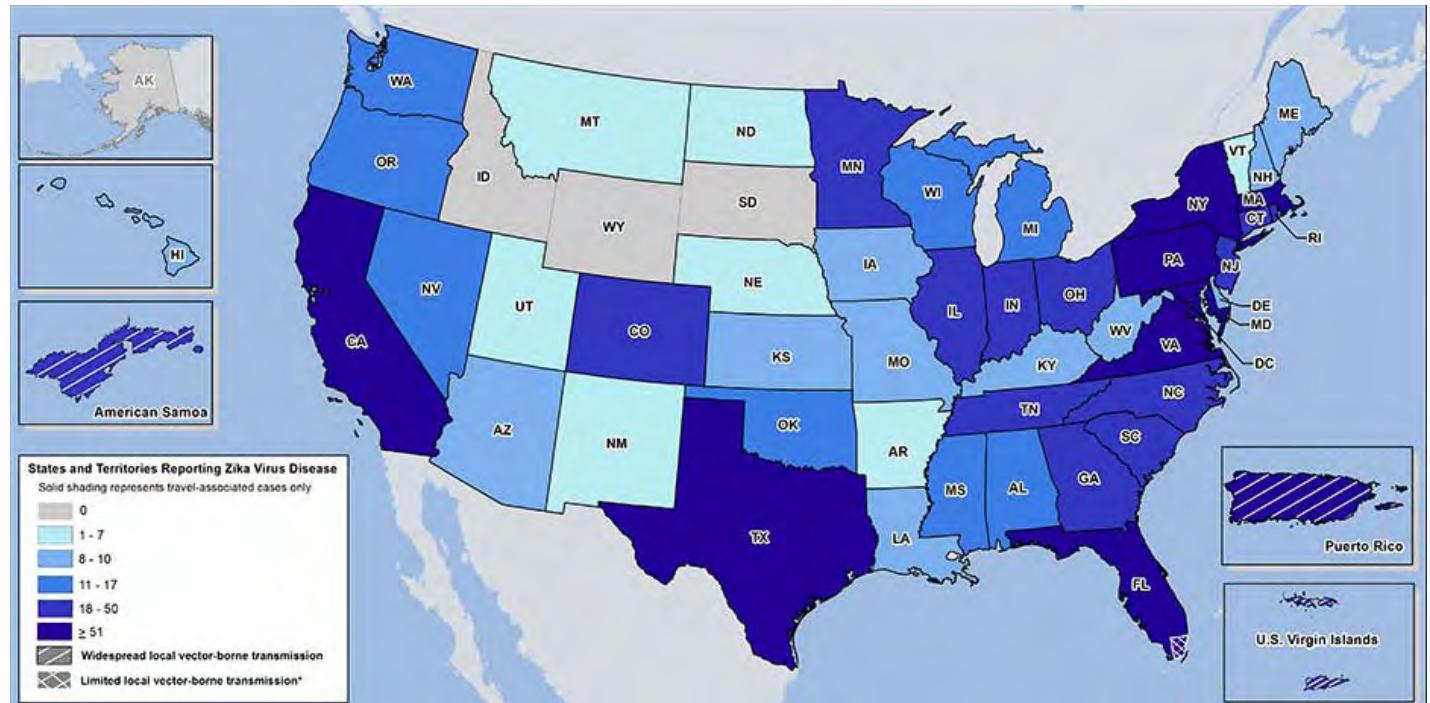
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Posted by : [Cities Speak](#) August 8, 2016

Stephanie Martinez-Ruckman As the first cases of the Zika virus were identified in the contiguous United States, it is important for city leaders to understand the virus and ways they can educate and prepare their communities.



A map showing where in the United States cases of the Zika virus have been reported to ArboNET, a national arboviral surveillance system managed by the CDC. (Image courtesy CDC)

Last Monday, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health confirmed Zika virus infections and persistent mosquito populations in the Wynwood neighborhood of north Miami, Florida. With this new information and the risk of continued active transmission of Zika in that area, it is important for city leaders to understand both the situation in Florida, as well as the necessary precautions cities across the United States can take.

### Travel to Florida-designated Areas

The [CDC has issued travel, testing and other recommendations](#) for those who traveled to the [Wynwood neighborhood](#) on or after June 15, 2016. This is the first time the CDC has warned against travel to any area within the continental United States due to the outbreak of an infectious disease. The greatest risk, of course, is to pregnant women and their partners, as well as those who are planning to become pregnant. As the CDC's Emergency Response Team becomes fully operational to this site, we can expect to receive more information and guidance.

### Zika 101

Even for those who have no plans to travel to Florida, or to other areas with confirmed cases of the Zika virus, it is important to understand this disease. Here are the five things that everyone should know:

1. Zika is spread through the Aedes species mosquito. [These mosquitos can be found throughout the United States](#). The best way to prevent Zika is to prevent mosquito bites.
2. Zika can also be transmitted sexually, and passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus, which can cause significant birth defects.
3. Pregnant woman should not travel to [Zika-impacted areas](#).
4. Travelers infected with Zika can spread the virus through mosquito bites.
5. There is no vaccine for Zika.

[The CDC awarded \\$16 million to states and territories](#) last week for systems to detect microcephaly and other outcomes of Zika, referrals for impacted families to appropriate services and for the monitoring of outcomes of children affected by Zika. These awards are meant to be a stopgap measure until Congress votes on a Zika aid package. We anticipate that this will be a top priority when Congress returns in September.

### Prevention

This summer, it is important for everyone to take steps to [prevent mosquito bites](#) and [sexual transmission](#) of Zika. While we are still learning more about this virus and its long-term impacts, these simple steps, including the use of insect repellent and screens on windows and doors, will help to ensure that we are doing our best to confront this challenge.

### What Can Local Leaders Do?

Getting the word out about Zika is critically important as many Americans still are not fully aware of the impacts of this disease. While the CDC and news outlets have been doing their part, local leaders have a unique opportunity to ensure that accurate and timely information on this virus is shared in their communities by:

- **Hosting a Press Conference** with your Health Department to educate and inform your community about the Zika virus, utilizing the many [resources provided by the CDC](#).

- **Writing an Op-Ed** to make sure your community knows the risks of the Zika virus and how to be prepared.
- **Check the CDC website** for information updated daily and helpful toolkits at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika>.

As you develop communication plans and best practices in your cities and towns, we hope that you will share them with us. The National League of Cities is also happy to help connect you with further resources – please reach out to us anytime.

# LA sheriff essentially bans deputies from shooting at moving cars

The L.A. County Sheriff's Department has changed its policy to essentially ban sheriff's deputies from shooting at moving vehicles unless another deadly weapon is present.

For years, deputies in pursuit of a suspect in a car said they feared being run over and shot. Some suspects have said they were just trying to get away.

Law enforcement agencies from across the country have restricted shooting at vehicles, including another major agency in the Los Angeles area, the Los Angeles Police Department. Leaders point to safety issues: if the driver is disabled, a two-ton car can careen into innocent bystanders.

The sheriff department's change comes on the heels of [a KPCC investigation](#), which found deputies shot into moving vehicles and struck the suspect at least nine times between 2010 and 2014. In only one case did the deputies say the suspect was armed, documents from the L.A. District Attorney's Office show.

In 2015, shootings incidents involving cars spiked to four shootings in which officers hit the suspect, three non-hit and one incident when the deputy shot at the vehicles tires, according to the department.

"There was a concern about the number of shootings at moving vehicles we were having," said Assistant Sheriff Todd Rodgers.

The policy rewrite, which went into effect August 4, states "firearms shall not be discharged at a stationary or moving vehicle" or its occupants unless deputies are being threatened with a gun or some other "deadly force by means other than the moving vehicle."

The previous policy stated that fear would not "presumptively" justify a shooting.

"This is more descriptive and specific," said Assistant Sheriff Todd Rogers. "We are trying to impress upon deputies that it's generally ineffective to shoot at a moving vehicle."

The department also published a new training video for deputies that describes the new policy and why it's not a good idea to shoot at moving cars. Any departure from policy will be reviewed on an individual basis, Rogers said.

One case involving shooting at a car could cost L.A. County millions of dollars. The L.A. County Board of Supervisors Tuesday is expected to vote on a \$2.8 million settlement for a man who was sitting in the back seat of a moving car when he was shot by a sheriff's deputy.

In that case, which dates back to August 2013, deputies came upon a man spray painting graffiti on a cinderblock wall along Rosemead Avenue in Pico Rivera around midnight.

When the deputies approached the man, he “dove into the open front passenger side window” of a nearby Chrysler 300, according to a summary given to the board.

“Almost immediately the driver of the vehicle accelerated toward one of the deputies,” according to the summary. The deputy attempted to get out of the car’s path, but the driver “deliberately steered the vehicle toward the retreating deputy while continuing to accelerate.”

Deputy Cuauhtemoc Gonzalez opened fire. The car steered away from him and stopped a few feet away. Three men came out of the car and surrendered. A fourth lay slumped in the back seat. One of the deputy’s bullets had struck Gonzalo Martinez in his left eye. Martinez, now 23-years-old, lost the eye. Bullet fragments remain in his brain.

“His parents essentially are taking care of him,” according to Martinez’ attorney, Dale Galipo. “We don’t believe he will be able to be employed.”

Despite the settlement, sheriff’s officials maintain the deputy’s decision to shoot was sound.

“The deputy sheriff feared for his life and deployed deadly force against a vehicle’s driver who drive his vehicle directly at the deputy sheriff,” the summary stated.

The deputy was found to have acted correctly under the old policy. The L.A. County District Attorney declined to file criminal charges.

It’s unclear how the department would treat the same case with the revision in place. Rogers said he was not familiar enough with the circumstances of the incident to make that determination.

The problem, Galipo argued, was not with the old policy, but with the sheriff’s department enforcing it.

“The sheriff’s department’s has a good policy of not shooting at moving vehicles,” he said. “The only problem is many of the deputies don’t follow it.”

[LOCAL / L.A. Now](#)

# Meningitis outbreak in L.A. gay community prompts plea for vaccinations



Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, the interim health officer of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, speaks to reporters Thursday about an outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease that has occurred disproportionately among gay and bisexual men in Los Angeles County. (Luis Sinco / Los Angeles Times)

By [Hailey Branson-Potts](#)

JULY 7, 2016, 4:45 PM

**L**os Angeles County public health officials and LGBT advocates are urging gay and bisexual men to get meningitis vaccinations, citing a recent outbreak of potentially deadly meningococcal disease that is disproportionately affecting men who have sex with men.

There have been 17 [confirmed cases](#) of invasive meningococcal disease confirmed in the county so far this year, including 12 in the last two months, Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, the interim director of the L.A. County Department of Public Health, said Thursday.

Eight have been among gay or bisexual men, including seven within the last two months, he said.

"In L.A. County, since May, the number of these infections among men, most of whom have identified themselves as gay or bisexual, is substantially more than we would normally expect during this time of the

year," Gunzenhauser said at a news conference at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. "This is of great concern."

There are an estimated 300,000 self-identified gay or bisexual men among L.A. County's more than 10 million residents, Gunzenhauser said. The reason for the high proportion of cases among men who have sex with men is unknown, he said.

At least one man with meningococcal disease has died this year in Orange County, public health officials [announced last month](#). Five people there have been diagnosed since the beginning of the year, and two, including the man who died, within the last two months, said Rachel Selleck, a spokeswoman for the county's health care agency.

No deaths have been reported in Los Angeles County, officials said.

The L.A. County health department is providing free vaccinations for patients, regardless of whether they have health insurance. The [AIDS](#) Healthcare Foundation and the Los Angeles LGBT Center also are offering free vaccinations.

"We think the message should be simple: If you are a gay or bisexual man or a transgender woman, you should receive the meningococcal vaccine," said Robert Bolan, medical director for the L.A. LGBT Center.

"I want us to be busy," Bolan added. "I want the doors to be bursting at the seams. I want people to come in and be vaccinated now. Please do this. It's important."

[Invasive meningococcal disease](#) is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, which can affect the bloodstream and lead to meningitis. Infections progress rapidly and can cause brain damage, hearing loss, loss of limbs and death, Gunzenhauser said.

Meningococcal disease is spread through direct contact with saliva, through activities including sneezing or coughing, sharing beverage containers and cigarettes, and kissing, county health officials said.

Symptoms usually begin within a few days of exposure and can include fever, vomiting, severe headache, stiff neck, confusion, a rash and muscle pain.

As of Thursday, there were no known social linkages among the meningococcal disease reported in Los Angeles County or neighboring jurisdictions, Gunzenhauser said.

The 17 meningococcal disease cases in L.A. County include five in the city of Long Beach, which has its own health department, said John Holguin, the city's epidemiologist supervisor. Pasadena, which also has its own health department, had no reported cases, officials said.

Though the weakened immune systems of people who are HIV-positive might make them more susceptible to meningococcal disease, only one of L.A. County's 17 cases is in a person known to be HIV-positive, said Benjamin Schwartz, deputy chief of the L.A. County Acute Communicable Disease Control Program.

The county is recommending that all gay or bisexual men who have had multiple sexual partners or who seek sexual partners through online dating apps like Grindr get vaccinated, as well as all people who are HIV-positive.

Some of the infected people in L.A. County said they had used online dating apps, Gunzenhauser said.

The L.A. County health department reported 12 meningococcal disease diagnoses [in all of 2015](#), officials said. Only one identified as a gay or bisexual man.

A 2014 outbreak led to the [deaths of three gay men](#) in their 20s who contracted meningitis.

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## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# Spitzer Targets Double-Dipping by Nelson and Bilodeau



From left: OC Supervisor Todd Spitzer, Supervisor Shawn Nelson, and Nelson's chief of staff, Denis Bilodeau.

By Nick Gerda (<http://voiceofoc.org/author/ngerda/>) August 5, 2016

Orange County Supervisor Todd Spitzer has escalated his long-running feud with fellow Supervisor Shawn Nelson, introducing measures this week that ban the kind of double-dipping from taxpayer funds that Nelson and his chief of staff have long engaged in.

For years, Nelson has been collecting a \$765-per-month car allowance from the county [despite getting a publicly-funded car for free](http://www.ocregister.com/taxdollars/nelson-601845-car-allowance.html) (<http://www.ocregister.com/taxdollars/nelson-601845-car-allowance.html>) as a perk of his appointment to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) board.

So far, Nelson has received about \$50,000 in car allowance payments from the county while being issued an AQMD car, which he's had nearly continuously since February 2011. And Denis Bilodeau, Nelson's top aide at the county, [received \\$83,000 in payments and benefits last year from other public agencies](http://voiceofoc.org/2016/05/political-aides-multiple-income-streams-shows-how-it-pays-to-be-connected/) (<http://voiceofoc.org/2016/05/political-aides-multiple-income-streams-shows-how-it-pays-to-be-connected/>) on top of the \$177,000 in salary and benefits he earns from his full-time job at the county.

Included in Bilodeau's outside income last year was nearly \$38,000 for being Nelson's policy aide at AQMD, which has led to questions about why he gets the extra money when he's already getting a full-time salary from the county to help Nelson.

Nelson [has defended his perks by saying he's sacrificing](http://www.ocregister.com/taxdollars/nelson-601845-car-allowance.html) (<http://www.ocregister.com/taxdollars/nelson-601845-car-allowance.html>) by serving on the Board of Supervisors because he used to make much more money as a private attorney. While serving as a supervisor, Nelson has continued to [receive more than \\$100,000](http://voiceofoc.org/2015/04/legal-careers-of-county-supervisors-draw-questions/) (<http://voiceofoc.org/2015/04/legal-careers-of-county-supervisors-draw-questions/>) each year from his law firm, according to his financial disclosures.

The double-dipping by Nelson and Bilodeau has drawn the ire of some of their fellow Republicans, including [public criticism of Bilodeau by prominent GOP activist Jon Fleischman](http://voiceofoc.org/2016/05/political-aides-multiple-income-streams-shows-how-it-pays-to-be-connected/) (<http://voiceofoc.org/2016/05/political-aides-multiple-income-streams-shows-how-it-pays-to-be-connected/>).

"If he's already being paid full-time to give all of his professional hours to helping Shawn Nelson as a supervisor, then what's he getting paid by the AQMD to do?" Fleischman asked earlier this year. "And if he's getting paid by the AQMD to help Shawn Nelson, then why are the taxpayers of the county of Orange" paying to pick up his salary?

Bilodeau has said little publicly in response to the criticism, other than saying AQMD pays him to assist Nelson "in analyzing proposed regulations and other related technical tasks."

Now, Spitzer is stepping into the fray. He's placed two items on next Tuesday's Board of Supervisors agenda that would prohibit exactly what Nelson and Bilodeau have been doing.

The changes would ban supervisors from accepting a car for more than seven days per month from another government agency, such as AQMD, where they're appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

The new rules would also ban supervisors' staff and contractors from taking compensation from an outside agency for helping the supervisor at that agency without prior approval by a majority of the Board of Supervisors.

Violations require the offending supervisor to "immediately forfeit" their appointment to the outside agency, and a new vote by supervisors to fill the vacant seat.

**(Click here to read Spitzer's proposal (<http://goo.gl/2V3Xeo>).)**

Spitzer needs two other supervisors' votes on Tuesday for the item to pass.

Neither Spitzer, Nelson nor Bilodeau returned calls for comment.

Nelson and Bilodeau are not the only public officials who have come under fire for double-dipping. Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido has used his position to earn nearly six figures annually (<http://voiceofoc.org/2011/08/a-mayor-adapt-at-taking-from-many-pots/>) in addition to his pay for serving on city council.

Westminster is another place (<http://voiceofoc.org/2010/08/more-double-dipping-this-time-in-westminster/>) where City Council members are known for "double-dipping" by taking benefits from multiple taxpayer-funded sources.

Spitzer's effort is a rare public move against a fellow supervisor. He and Nelson have a history of feuds, including public accusations from Nelson that Spitzer was "grandstanding" (<http://voiceofoc.org/2013/11/nelson-spitzer-clash-over-proposed-underage-drinking-law/>) in front of TV cameras in when trying to pass a law against underage drinking.

Nelson also publicly criticized Spitzer's political fundraising (<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/committee-692180-central-spitzer.html>) through a Republican Party Central Committee account, suggesting that Spitzer was trying to get around the county's campaign finance limits.

"Is it an ethical approach to what people understand is a fundraising cap? No," Nelson told the Orange County Register about Spitzer's approach (<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/committee-692180-central-spitzer.html>).

Spitzer is also widely believed to be eyeing a run for District Attorney in 2018, which would likely pit him against his archrival District Attorney Tony Rackauckas. Nelson and Rackauckas have worked closely together in the past (<http://www.ocregister.com/totalbuzz/county-468661-strong-sex.html>), and Nelson has criticized some of Spitzer's attacks against Rackauckas (<http://voiceofoc.org/2015/04/da-and-supervisors-chairman-clash-over-dna-lab-oversight/>).

It remains to be seen if Spitzer will succeed in getting the votes he needs to push through the double-dipping ban.

Tuesday's supervisors meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. at the county Hall of Administration in Santa Ana.

*This story has been updated to include that Nelson has had an AQMD car since February 2011, and that the amount of county car allowances he's received in that time is about \$50,000.*

LOCAL / CALIFORNIA

# Wanted: Mayan indigenous language interpreters



Aldo Waykam, a Mayan language interpreter, meets recently with Vinicio Nicolas, 15, outside the federal immigration court in Anaheim before Vinicio's asylum hearing. Vinicio speaks Kanjobal, the language used in his village in the highlands of Guatemala. (Mark Boster / Los Angeles Times)

By **Cindy Carcamo**

AUGUST 9, 2016, 4:00 AM

The day Vinicio Nicolas found out whether he would be allowed to stay in the United States, and hopefully far from the gang trying to recruit him in Guatemala, he brought along an interpreter.

With the stakes so high, he wanted someone who spoke his native tongue. He had arrived in the U.S. just eight months before, and his English wasn't good. But neither was his Spanish.

The language the 15-year-old needed an interpreter to wrestle with — for the sake of his future — was an ancient Mayan one called Q'anjob'al, or Kanjobal.

Successive waves in recent years of more than 100,000 immigrants from Central America — many of them boys and girls who came without their parents — have created a shortage of people who can translate Mayan languages, especially K'iché (Quiché) and Mam. This is an especially acute need for arrivals from Guatemala, which is home to more than two dozen indigenous languages, but also from countries such as Honduras.

Before entering an asylum office in Anaheim, interpreter Aldo Waykam asked Vinicio how he was feeling: "Tzet x'i a kul?"

"Watx," the teenager replied. Good.

Spoken by almost 80,000 people in mostly rural municipalities in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, Kanjobal is common in places like Santa Eulalia — where Vinicio grew up — but rare everywhere else.

Mam, a Mayan language spoken by more than 500,000 people in Guatemala, ranked ninth in the top 10 languages spoken in U.S. immigration court last fiscal year. Quiché ranked 11th. Both surpassed French, according to the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review.

Five years ago, Quiché and Mam didn't even break the top 25 languages spoken in immigration court.

The shortage of interpreters is leading to a host of issues. Often, judges delay immigration hearings until one is found. At times, asylum seekers are deported even if they have a strong case because a qualified interpreter cannot be found in time. And unlike in immigration court, interpreters aren't provided for free during asylum hearings.

The interpreter shortage is exacerbated by a lack of Mayan-language interpreter courses, said Naomi Adelson, a Spanish-English court interpreter and coordinator of the Mayan-languages interpreter program at San Francisco nonprofit Asociacion Mayab.

Oakland is home to one of the largest concentrations of Mam speakers in the nation.

"I'm very concerned about meeting the demand, especially since more are coming," Adelson said. "The demand for Mam has just gone off the charts."

Vinicio's case was Waykam's second of the week. If he wasn't already employed managing several shops and restaurants in the L.A. area, Waykam said, he could probably do interpreting full time.

Vinicio and his brothers, who live in Compton, heard Waykam on a Kanjobal radio station that streams online and hired him on the spot. Waykam helped translate Vinicio's story to the asylum officer.

Vinicio was 14 years old when the gang recruiters came looking for him outside his school. They offered him drugs, a knife and even a gun.

"I'm Christian," he told them. "I just want to go to school. I don't want to sell drugs."

But they wouldn't give up, Vinicio said. They told him they would kill his entire family if he didn't join.

One night, they came looking for him, and he escaped through the back door. He said he slept the night in the wooded mountains near his village before catching a bus to Guatemala City the next day.

He couldn't stay in the nation's capital because the gang has a network there, Vinicio said.

Instead, he borrowed \$3,000 from an aunt and made his way to the United States. He walked into a U.S. Customs and Border Protection station in Arizona, asking for asylum.

Policarpo Chaj of Maya Vision, which serves indigenous Guatemalans in the Los Angeles area, said he's fielded an increasing number of requests for interpreters.

Chaj, a Quiché interpreter, used to get one or two calls a year for interpreter services. Now, he said, he gets about 10 calls a month.

"We can't meet the demand," said Chaj, of Alhambra. His organization has 17 interpreters in six Mayan languages.

Many of the services are for immigration court, asylum hearings and Superior Court. But interpreters are also used in hospitals and schools, he said.

Some immigrants are unaware of their right to an interpreter in immigration court and settle for a Spanish interpreter who can't accurately convey the client's case for staying.

Mariano Garcia Matias, a 52-year-old Mam interpreter who lives in Los Angeles, travels the nation offering his services. Sometimes he's so busy, Matias said, that he has to turn away clients.

Like most Mayan language interpreters, Matias does what's called "relay interpreting." That means another interpreter provides the English-to-Spanish translation while Matias translates from Spanish to Mam.

Although he speaks English reasonably well, he said he doesn't feel comfortable enough to provide direct English-to-Mam interpretation.

"It has to be a perfect translation, and we're talking about someone's life on the line, including that person's family," he said.

Matias is a naturalized U.S. citizen, but others who could do translation are in the country illegally and don't want to get near immigration court. At times, the interpreter is working from a remote spot in Guatemala with spotty phone service.

A good interpreter is key, said Eryk Escobar, a supervising attorney for the program that represents unaccompanied children at the Central American Resource Center in L.A.

"If you don't have an interpreter, it's going to make a big difference at the end of the day," he said.

He once had a client who insisted on explaining his case in Spanish — instead of Quiché — out of pride.

The two had a tough time communicating, and the client's case for immigration relief ended up looking weak, Escobar said.

"Once I got the interpreter in our meetings it ... was a slam-dunk case," he said.

Before walking up to the window at the asylum office waiting room, Vinicio said he was optimistic about being allowed to stay. Waykam wasn't so sure. Only a tiny percentage of cases are approved.

Minutes later, the two walked to a counter with a glass partition. An immigration official informed Waykam of the outcome of Vinicio's case.

He delivered the news to the teenager in a language made more intimate by the distance from home and the small fraternity of people who could wield it to share both heartache and joy.

"Maj ak'lay a caso."

You didn't win your case.

[cindy.carcamo@latimes.com](mailto:cindy.carcamo@latimes.com)

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Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

## West Nile virus detected in six areas in LA County

By City News Service

Monday, August 8, 2016



West Nile virus is continuing to spread across the Southland, with vector-control officials announcing Monday that the virus was detected for the first time this year in six areas.

According to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, West Nile virus activity was recently detected in Carson, La Habra Heights, Lincoln Heights, Newhall, Tarzana and Willowbrook.

District officials said 40 recent mosquito samples tested positive for the virus, which was also confirmed in five sentinel chickens.

So far this year, West Nile virus has been detected in 138 mosquito samples in the area, and 33 dead birds were confirmed to have the virus.

"West Nile virus is a quiet, buzzing threat in our own backyards," said Levy Sun of the Vector Control District. "Getting rid of standing water to prevent mosquito breeding is a key to reducing the risk of West Nile virus."

Los Angeles County health officials last month confirmed the first human case of West Nile virus this year, and a human case was reported in Orange County last week.

Symptoms of West Nile may never materialize, but can include fever, headache, nausea, body aches, skin rashes and swollen lymph nodes.

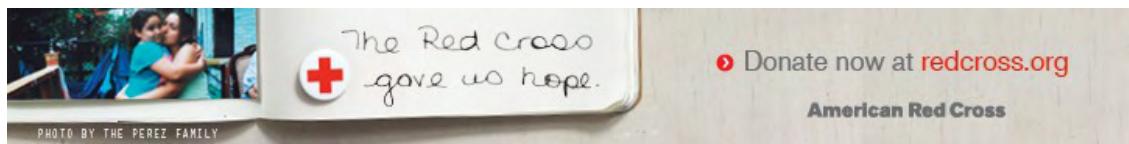
Mosquitoes typically become carriers of the virus after feeding on an infected bird and can then spread the potentially lethal strain to animals and humans.

To reduce exposure to West Nile virus, residents are urged to:

- limit outdoor activity at dawn or dusk, when mosquitoes are generally on the move;
- wear pants and long-sleeved shirts when outdoors;
- use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or products containing IR3535;
- ensure door and window screens are in good condition and fitted properly to keep bugs out; and
- get rid of standing water -- aside from pools properly treated with chemicals -- to reduce areas in which mosquitoes may breed, including flower pots and pet bowls.

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URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/health/20160808/west-nile-virus-detected-in-six-areas-in-la-county>



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Aug. 9, 2016 2:11 AM ET

A A A - +

## Parks promised to poor California areas unbuilt years later

By ALISON NOON, Associated Press. 

 AIM  Share

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A decade after California voters were promised \$400 million worth of parks in some of the state's poorest neighborhoods, an Associated Press review finds fewer than half of the 126 projects that received the money have been built, as Democratic lawmakers push to add another \$1 billion to the program.

State officials say the long wait is the result of strong oversight, but people waiting for the parks see only empty lots.

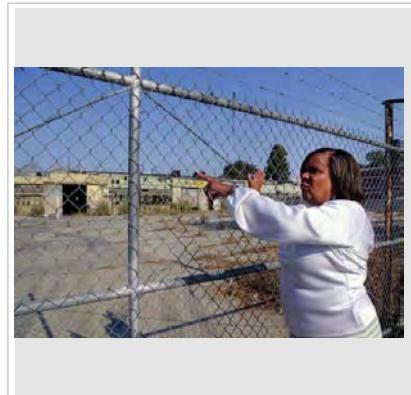
In the South Los Angeles neighborhood of Florence, Jennifer Schott won't let her kids play outdoors, nor is she willing to make the eight-minute walk through gang territory to the nearest park.

No one told Schott, who directs a mental health facility in the high-crime neighborhood, that the state has shelled out \$5 million for the city parks department to replace vacant industrial buildings with 4 acres of grass, basketball courts and a community garden. Six years after the project was approved, the structures haven't been touched.

"I would hope that they would start construction on it soon," Schott said. "If they have a grant, let's do it."

Diana Bulnes, a department spokeswoman, did not respond to repeated requests for comment on the park or five others for which the city of Los Angeles has received funding. One has been completed, according to state data.

Community organizer Charisse Bremond Weaver said the park has been stalled amid bureaucratic hoops that became more problematic after Gov. Jerry Brown eliminated LA's redevelopment agency and hundreds of others when California was climbing out of the recession.



In this Friday, July 29, 2016 photo, Charisse Bremond, president of South Los Angeles community program Brotherhood Crusade, a community service and development organization, points to a derelict factory where the Slauson-Wall Park was to be built in Los Angeles. A decade after California voters were promised \$400 million worth of parks in some of the state's poorest neighborhoods, fewer than half of the 126 parks that received the money have been built. As lawmakers push to add another \$1 billion to the program, an Associated Press review of state data finds people are still waiting for 68 of the original parks. (AP Photo/Nick Ut)

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About 54 percent of voters approved Proposition 84 in 2006, allowing California to sell \$5.4 billion in bonds and distribute the money to water, parks and conservation projects. The initiative promised \$400 million to create parks in neighborhoods without them or to expand overused parks in low-income neighborhoods.

Based on guidelines that prioritized the neediest communities, the state parks department chose 126 parks and recreation center projects and awarded them \$396 million from a pool of 900 applicants that requested \$3 billion, data provided by the department show.

Slauson-Wall Park in Florence is one of 68 projects that have not yet been built, according to the state data and officials overseeing the projects. The unbuilt parks account for \$230 million, or more than half, of the money given out from the 2006 initiative.

Parks pledged to disadvantaged communities in Los Angeles County account for one-third of all the projects and one-third of those that are incomplete, the data show. The rest are scattered across the state.

The state, local and nonprofit groups putting the money to work have broken no promises in taking a leisurely pace, because the original ballot measure made no commitments about how long it would take to build the parks. Still, people like Florence furniture builder Gustavo Guerrera are left thinking, "They're never going to build a park here."

The regulatory hurdles largely blamed for the delays are ubiquitous in California and make it extremely difficult to build a house, let alone a public park, in under a decade, said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

"It should not take that long," Coupal said.

The state parks department awarded the last dollars in 2013, but most recipients couldn't immediately put the money to use. Municipal boards had to sanction projects led by local parks departments, a process the state tried to expedite with fill-in-the-blank authorization forms. Accommodating new projects meant some agencies and organizations had to rearrange staff.

"We're building the parks as fast as we can. There's just multiple things we're doing at the same time," said Tori Kjer, Los Angeles program manager at the Trust for Public Land, a national organization that's been building parks since 1972. It received funding to build eight of the California projects, four of which are complete.

It often took a year to finalize grant agreements, organize a team and select contractors, Kjer and other project coordinators said. They typically spend another year designing the project and getting permits, and additional time to engage the community in the hope that residents use and maintain the space in perpetuity. Then construction can begin.

"Everyone wants their park right away, but projects of this scale are huge projects — we're not talking about just replacing a bench," said Jennifer Isacoff, national operations director at the Trust for Public Land. "It's really important to us to design a planning process that will give a community its voice."

The projects were given generous deadlines to facilitate oversight, officials say. Some of the incomplete parks must be finished by 2017, but most will be considered "on time" if they're built by July 2019.

"A lot of these kinds of safeguards of planning and permitting and regulating are important, but make it so that doing anything in California takes time," said Jon Christensen, an environmental humanities researcher at University of California Los Angeles who studied the program earlier this year.

Christensen found in a May report at least 90 percent of the parks funding has been dedicated to needy communities, as voters intended.

Democratic Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia of Coachella is pushing the Legislature to place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to dedicate another \$1 billion to the same program for new or expanded parks.

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"From the state side, we met our obligation to the voters delivering the resources to these communities," Garcia said.

Charisse Bremond Weaver, president of South Los Angeles community program Brotherhood Crusade, said she just wants to ensure the Slauson-Wall Park is not forgotten.

"It would be a game-changer for the neighborhood," she said.

Associated Press

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# Drugging Our Kids: Legislation to halt overmedicating foster children faces key votes

By Tracy Seipel, [tseipel@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:tseipel@bayareanewsgroup.com)  
The Mercury News

Posted: Mon Aug 08 19:45:05 MDT 2016

California's sweeping efforts to curb the overprescribing of psychiatric drugs to foster children face crucial votes in Sacramento this week, as legislators scramble to negotiate behind the scenes with doctors' groups and the administration of Gov. Jerry Brown whose support is key to the fate of the reforms.

At stake is a series of bills that would monitor and investigate doctors for dangerous prescribing; require that judges have a second opinion for the most dangerous prescribing requests; and require better transparency and tracking of mental health services for foster kids in every California county.

The three-pronged push headed by Bay Area lawmakers comes as a result of the Bay Area News Group's investigative series "Drugging Our Kids"; its last two installments were published Sunday and Monday.

Sen. Mike McGuire's Senate Bill 1174 is the most controversial of the legislative package, because it would require annual monitoring of high-prescribing doctors -- and allow the California Medical Board to crack down on violators by revoking their licenses.

"If this bill passes into law, it will be the strongest law in the nation that protects foster youth from over-medication," McGuire, D-Healdsburg, said of the bill, which faces a vote Wednesday in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

In a Sunday report, this news organization highlighted how only 10 percent of the state's 1,280 highest prescribers were responsible about 50 percent of the time a foster child was given an antipsychotic. The consequences can be devastating to foster youth, especially those who receive multiple antipsychotic medications, placing them at high risk for obesity, diabetes, extreme lethargy and tremors.

But the legislation's aim to get tough on high prescribers of psychiatric drugs has run into fierce opposition from doctors who say they could be unfairly targeted or restrained from doing their jobs to treat children with critical needs.

The Medical Board "has a reputation of being extremely tenacious, and once something is under their eye, they don't let it go," said Dr. Saul Wasserman, a veteran San Jose child psychiatrist and co-chair of the government affairs committee of the California Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, which opposes the bill. "On the one hand, you want to get rid of the bad apples, but this bill cuts off too many branches from the tree."

In an effort to address those concerns, McGuire's office has agreed to amend the bill so doctors would only be triggered for scrutiny once a year instead of quarterly and only if they prescribed three or more psychiatric drugs to a child for 90 days or more.

Under a previous version of the bill, doctors would have been questioned automatically for prescribing to children 5 and younger or giving multiple antipsychotics to a foster child of any age. But McGuire said the new language will give the Medical Board free rein to request a variety of data from the state when prescribing patterns raise alarms.

"We obviously wanted the original language in there, that was our ideal text," McGuire said. "But our bottom line was that the state cannot restrict the Medical Board from accessing any data."

The compromise appears to have satisfied at least one of the major doctors' groups fighting the bill -- the California Medical Association plans to withdraw its opposition and remain neutral -- but the child psychiatry group is still opposed.

Lee Collins, director of the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services, has been carefully watching the proceedings and was disheartened by the changes to SB 1174.

"Is this bill, as amended, still better than nothing? Yes. But it's inching toward nothing," he said. "Many children likely will be helped by this bill, even in its current form, but fewer will be helped compared to the version of only two days ago."

While McGuire's bill would go after questionable prescribers after the fact, Sen. Bill Monning's Senate Bill 253 will require extra justification for risky prescriptions before they are approved. The bill -- scheduled for a vote in the Assembly Thursday -- was one of a series first introduced last year but held over until this session.

While Monning has tried to address the concerns of opponents, who complained it would overburden doctors, they remain opposed to the legislation.

The bill will ensure psychotropic drugs would not be authorized by a judge without sufficient information about the child and his or her proposed treatment, and mandates ongoing medical monitoring.

But after amendments, a second doctor's review will now only be required for the most "at-risk" kids, Monning said. That reduced the number of children the bill would have covered from 10,000 to about 1,000.

"We are the guardians -- we are the parents of the foster youth -- and we are responsible for their health, safety and welfare," Monning, D-Monterey, said. SB 253, he noted, "makes sure we are fulfilling these responsibilities."

Senate Bill 1291, by Sen. Jim Beall, D-San Jose, which would require better monitoring of county mental health services for foster youth, faces a more uncertain fate.

The estimated steep costs -- upwards of at least \$725,000 a year -- means the bill has stalled in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Beall's staff is trying to rework the bill to reduce its costs and help it move forward.

The negotiations are important, McGuire said, to ensure the state is doing what's required.

"It's ridiculous that we have to enact a law to be able to protect California's foster youth -- this is a no-brainer," McGuire said.

Contact Tracy Seipel at 408-920-5343. Follow her at [Twitter.com/taseipel](https://Twitter.com/taseipel).

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## County to Spend \$11.5 Million to Increase Access to Anti-HIV Drug, PrEP



LOS ANGELES, CA — The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to spend \$11.5 million over two years to expand access to PrEP, an anti-HIV pill, for uninsured and under-insured patients.

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl championed the broader use of PrEP, telling her colleagues that HIV still amounts to an epidemic.

"L.A. County continues to experience the second largest HIV epidemic in the country," Kuehl said. "No single prevention program will completely curtail the spread of HIV, but expanding the use of PrEP could significantly reduce new infections."

PrEP is an acronym for pre-exposure prophylaxis. When taken daily as directed, the PrEP pill can reduce the risk of HIV infection by up to 99 percent, Kuehl said. The medication interferes with the virus's ability to replicate and establish an infection.

The funding will go to 10 community-based health care providers, including the [Los Angeles LGBT Center](#), Children's Hospital, Tarzana Treatment Center and AIDS Project Los Angeles.

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An estimated 2,000 Los Angeles residents become infected with HIV each year, including large numbers of gay men, African-Americans, Latinos and transgender people. About 50,000 Americans and 2 million worldwide were newly infected with HIV in 2014, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Under federal guidelines, [PrEP is recommended only for those who are HIV-negative](#) and have an "ongoing substantial risk of HIV infection."

Another drug, PEP or post-exposure prophylaxis, is designed for those seeking to prevent HIV after a single high-risk event of exposure.

— *City News Service, photo courtesy of the CDC*

LOCAL / CALIFORNIA

# State rail authority will seek a \$35-million increase for key project in bullet train plan



Supports for a 1,600-foot-viaduct to carry high-speed rail trains across the Fresno River. (Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press)

By **Ralph Vartabedian**

AUGUST 8, 2016, 8:50 PM

**R**elocation of Highway 99 in Fresno, a key part of the bullet train project, is over budget, behind schedule and will cost millions of dollars more to complete, officials said Monday.

The highway project would move a 2.5-mile stretch of the roadway, the principle commercial artery of the Central Valley, to make room for high-speed rail tracks through Fresno. The project currently is running 15% over budget and has fallen about six months behind schedule.

Work has been held up by litigation over obtaining rights to private property, the same issue that has contributed to a more than a two-year delay in building the first 29 miles of rail in the Central Valley.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is planning Tuesday to seek a \$35-million increase in state funding from the original \$226 million, which was granted to Caltrans in 2013. State Department of

Transportation documents indicate that the full amount needed is \$50 million, but the agency would seek to find \$15 million in cost reductions by narrowing the scope of the project.

"The scope reductions are items that we look at to save money on a project, such as using asphalt versus concrete, taking a look at aesthetics, etc.," said Caltrans spokesman Matt Rocco.

The rail authority board will consider the cost increase at its board meeting Tuesday, along with a separate request for an additional \$200 million for improvements to a Bay Area commuter rail system that were part of a 2013 agreement to make early investments in the so-called bookends of the rail system. The \$64-billion bullet train project would carry passengers from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

The original agreement called for the rail authority to invest \$600 million to help Caltrain, the Northern California commuter rail line, electrify its tracks, but the cost is now \$713 million with an additional \$84 million for other work. The rail authority also has increased similar funding for Southern California projects by several hundred million dollars.

The cost increases could put additional burdens on the state's plan to build an initial operating system from San Jose to Shafter by 2025, which will take virtually all of the potential funding the Legislature, federal agencies and taxpayers have pledged over the last eight years. Critics say the project is at risk of shifting into a series of local rail investments that might never connect into a statewide system.

In June, the rail authority board approved a \$63-million increase in the contract for Tutor Perini, the Sylmar-based firm that is building the first 29 miles of rail structures. The company asserted the state had failed to deliver land parcels on schedule, costing it additional overhead and idle machinery charges.

The Tutor change orders added 17 months to the company's work schedule, which may give Caltrans some breathing room. The Highway 99 project has used up 61% of its allowable time, but only spent 36% of its funding, suggesting it has to speed construction to avoid further delays. Rail authority spokeswoman Lisa Marie Alley said Caltrans was originally supposed to complete work by June 2018, but now the deadline is December 2018.

"This does not impact the overall construction schedule or budget for the first construction segment in the Central Valley," she said.

The land acquisitions have proved to be far more contentious than the rail authority ever considered. The Central Valley was touted as the easiest place to start construction, but wealthy farmers were more prepared, more passionate and tougher in resisting state demands.

Caltrans has obtained 31 of the 42 parcels, but has encountered delays in getting court-ordered possession in many cases. It has had to invoke imminent domain against Union Pacific for four parcels, according to an authority audit report.

[ralph.vartabedian@latimes.com](mailto:ralph.vartabedian@latimes.com)

# Supes' move to avert Lee veto on development measure fails

By [Lizzie Johnson](#)

Updated 5:20 pm, Monday, August 8, 2016

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Image 1 of 3

A board of supervisors meeting where supervisor David Campos introduced a bill putting a temporary moratorium on the construction of market-rate residential developments, at City Hall in San Francisco, CA ... more

A motion by the [Board of Supervisors](#) that would oppose state “by-right” development legislation and skirt Mayor [Ed Lee](#)’s veto of a resolution against it failed at a special meeting Monday.

The legislation, by Gov. [Jerry Brown](#), would make it easier to build new housing without going through an extensive permitting process. If enacted, the proposal would allow planning staff to approve housing developments that conform to the city’s zoning and include 10 percent affordable units, or 20 percent if the project is close to public transit.

The supervisors passed a resolution opposing the by-right legislation in July, but Lee vetoed it. The board ran out of time to override the resolution before the summer recess, pushing the issue into a special meeting. Board

members wanted to pass the resolution in the form of a motion, which Lee cannot veto because it is a parliamentary procedure.

Supervisor [Scott Wiener](#) said a motion was an “irregular and really problematic” way to push the resolution.

“It is a procedural vote within the Board of Supervisors,” he said. “A motion is supposed to be about those of us within the board setting our own procedural rules. The mayor cannot veto it because it is not in his province to be meddling in the internal procedures. Putting that aside, the board is going to act the way it acts.”

It ultimately failed because a motion requires a board majority — six votes — to pass and it drew five votes of the seven supervisors present Monday. Wiener and Supervisor [Katy Tang](#) voted against the motion.

But Supervisor [Aaron Peskin](#) said the motion was a way for the board to express itself.

“The policy body may pass a motion to express itself as the policy body,” he said. “It’s legal, though I’ll admit, it is often not done.”

After confusion over whether the motion had passed or not, board President [London Breed](#) said it had “unfortunately failed.”

Now, no more special meetings and on to recess.



## WORLD

# Whoops! When Museum Visitors Get Touchy-Feely With the Exhibits and Unleash Mayhem

By CHRISTOPHER MELE AUG. 8, 2016

A man walked into the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Pa., in May. A video showed him admiring a sculptural wall clock on display, touching and pulling on it at least five times to see how it works.

Any observer could sense that something bad was about to happen. And, indeed, it did.

The wooden clock, which was made by the artist James Borden, fell off the wall and collapsed into pieces, footage showed. The unidentified visitor alerted a museum staff member and confessed, PennLive.com reported. The director of the museum, Noel Poirier, said the clock was sent to the artist to be repaired.

The episode is one in a recent series of disastrous encounters between humans and historical, natural and artistic exhibits that resulted in the art or displays being defaced, punctured or broken because of curiosity, clumsiness or carelessness.

Officials in the museum community say that no plan to protect exhibits is foolproof, and that the recent episodes reflect the balance that museums seek between making their collections accessible to visitors and keeping them secure.

Wayne LaBar, the president of the board of the National Association for Museum Exhibition, a professional network of the American Alliance of Museums, said common sense guides museums about what precautions to take, but even with the best systems, “every once in a while, people surprise us.”

The problem is a global one:

- Last month, two boys used a sharp object to outline a 5,000-year-old historical carving in Norway thought to be among the earliest depictions of skiing anywhere in the world, The Telegraph reported. They apparently intended to “fix” it to make it more visible, but permanently defaced the carving, on the island of Tro.

Norwegian officials described the episode as a national tragedy, according to news accounts.

- Also last month, a 90-year-old woman visiting the Neues Museum in Nuremberg, Germany, used a pen to fill in the spaces in an artwork that depicted part of a crossword puzzle. Officials filed a criminal complaint about the unidentified woman for defacing the exhibit, “Reading-work-piece,” by the avant-garde artist Arthur Koepcke.

A lawyer for the woman later said that she did not damage the artwork — which included the phrase “insert words” — but merely completed it as the artist intended, the German news agency DPA reported.

- In June, a boy smashed a giant LEGO sculpture of Nick from “Zootopia” at an expo in Ningbo, China. The artist had spent days piecing it together, reports said.

- In May, two children at the Shanghai Museum of Glass were caught on camera touching a sculpture, “Angel Is Waiting,” by Shelly Xue, as their parents recorded them. When one child pulled the sculpture away from the wall, it fell and broke. A video of what happened went viral.

- In 2015, a 12-year-old boy in Taiwan tripped and punched a hole into an oil painting that was more than 300 years old and valued at \$1.5 million.

Steve Keller, who has worked in museum security since 1979, said the

phenomenon of visitors' defacing exhibits has been going on for years. He linked their actions to mental instability, a lack of appreciation of art or sheer ignorance.

Mr. Keller, the president of a consulting firm, Architect's Security Group, in Ormond Beach, Fla., worked at the Art Institute of Chicago. He recalled a visitor who wanted to take a photo of himself with a sculpture in the foreground and a painting in the background. The visitor could not frame the photo to his liking, so he wrapped his arms around the abstract sculpture, which was the size of a person, and turned it on its pedestal to get the best angle.

On another occasion, a teenage boy lifted a girl so that she could put her lipstick marks on a portrait at the same museum. While it was not necessarily a malicious act, Mr. Keller said, it was "kids being stupid."

"You can't protect every object on display and guarantee it will not be damaged," he added. "That is the nature of display."

Mr. LaBar said the number of exhibits being damaged has not prompted any widespread discussion within the museum community because curators, designers and security experts wrestle with these issues all the time.

Jim Coddington, the Agnes Gund chief conservator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, said: "I think the first and most important point is that events like these are outliers. While they trend on social media, they do so because they are highly unusual."

The balance comes in not putting up barriers that distract from the exhibits. For instance, Mr. LaBar said, visitors want to be able to appreciate the brush strokes of a painting without protective glass inhibiting the view. Forms of protection can be static, such as barriers that make you pause before going farther, or more active, such as posting security guards. Other systems sound an alarm if a visitor breaches an area.

Beth Redmond-Jones, the senior director of public programs at the San Diego Natural History Museum, said there had been a shift over the past 30 years with the growth of children's museums, which have led visitors to expect hands-on,

interactive exhibits. She said research has shown that museum-goers have a better appreciation of their experience when they can make a personal connection.

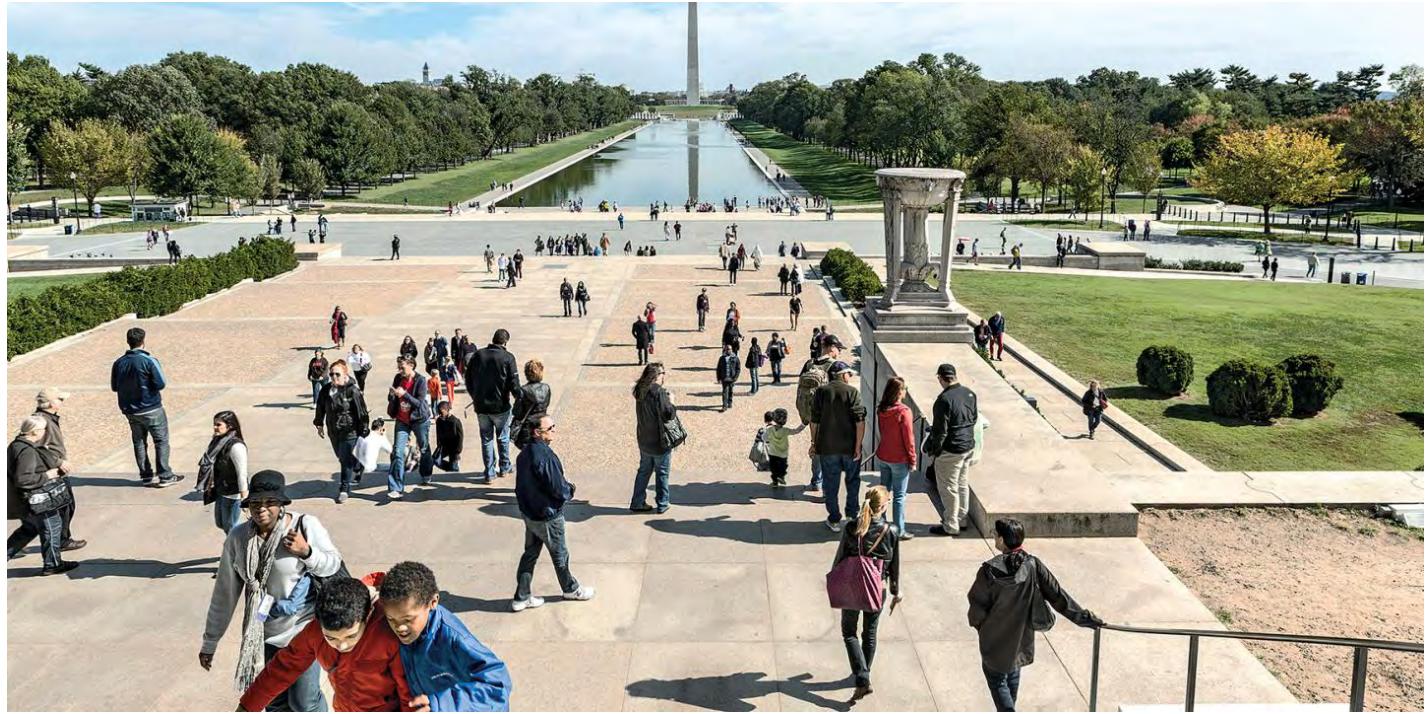
Ms. Redmond-Jones called the recent episodes “incredibly unfortunate.” She said she hoped that parents and teachers instill in children a sense of museum etiquette, including the notion to look but don’t touch.

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# How Washington, D.C., is preparing for the next terrorist attack

By [Jeff Stein](#) On 6/21/16 at 6:10 AM



07/01/16

## COVER STORY

Despite the intense security in the area, a man recently parked his pickup next to the Reflecting Pool and told police he was carrying a bucket of anthrax. Lisa Corson/Gallery Stock

The cellphones of dead people were still ringing inside the Pulse nightclub on June 12 when Cathy Lanier, chief of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C., got a message from her counterparts in Orlando, Florida. First reports were that a terrorist had carried out “the worst mass murder in American history” there.

## ADVERTISING

A famously hands-on and nocturnal leader, Lanier started punching numbers on her cellphone. One call went to the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the FBI-led body that gathers intelligence on threats. Another went to the city’s homeland security ops center. A text message came in from D.C.’s mayor, Muriel Bowser, asking for information. Lanier then set up a conference call with her senior commanders, who were already out in force because of the revelers in town for the city’s annual gay pride weekend. Extra resources were deployed into the nightclub district and venues connected to the day’s march, expected to draw over 250,000 people. As the sun lit up the Washington Monument, D.C.’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, a 24/7 nerve ganglion of blinking phones, 911 operators, intelligence analysts, computers monitors with incident reports and banks of TV screens with camera views of the city’s major avenues and bridges, was pulling in data from all over the region. Metro subway managers, struggling with repairs that shut down some lines, were on alert.

Everyone from hospital emergency rooms to the power system and business association had been given notice that something bad was going down 850 miles south and could be coming their way.

"What you would expect," Lanier tells *Newsweek* of her long morning of putting her many pieces in place. Business as usual for the city's most high-profile, and perhaps popular, official, an instantly recognizable, 6-foot blonde who's often seen behind the wheel of her own cruiser in the city's poorest wards. If the history of terrorism since 9/11 has been a sad litany of "lessons learned," Lanier, who joined the force as a foot patrolwoman in 1990 and quickly rose through the ranks to head its homeland security and counterterrorism division before becoming chief in 2007, is determined to be ready for any eventuality.



Washington Police Chief Cathy Lanier speaks during a news conference in Washington, D.C., July 2, 2015, about a possible shooting at the Navy Yard. As head of the D.C. police, Lanier has to prepare for every kind of terror threat, even the most unlikely, from drone strikes to dirty bombs and lone-wolf shootings.

Jacquelyn Martin/AP

Nightclub shooters, like Omar Mateen? Check. Bombers, as in Brussels last year? Check. Anthrax? Check. Nuclear, chemical or biological weapons? Check, check, check.

Unfortunately for Lanier, the recent attacks in Orlando, Brussels and Paris show that you can plan and train until your budget runs dry, and still you rarely stop a determined attacker. "Lone wolves" come out of nowhere. The urban guerrillas of the Islamic State group, or ISIS, use encrypted cellphones. Meanwhile, Lanier knows her city is not just a top-tier target but the greatest unclaimed prize for terrorists. It's the thriving capital of their arch-villain, home to the president who has vowed to destroy them, the Congress that funds the wars against them,

the Pentagon that carries out the president's orders and the Supreme Court that helps keep their brethren in Guantánamo.

"Suffice it to say, the capital remains a target," Representative Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, tells *Newsweek*. "They like to return to targets they missed" the first time around, like the World Trade Center, whose garage was merely wobbled by a truck bomb in 1993. "We've stopped several plots against the Capitol," he adds. One case involved pipe bombs and AK-47s; another had drones with explosives. There have been other, more recent plots, he says, but "I'd rather not get into that."

"God willing," a fighter proclaimed in a typical ISIS video from November 2015, "as we struck France in the center of its abode in Paris, then we swear that we will strike...Washington."

One day, Lanier knows, they will come. And despite all her tireless training, surveillance and planning, she knows she can't stop them all.

### Billion-Dollar Boondoggle

Washington was still jittery from the 9/11 attacks in the late spring of 2002 when an unidentified small aircraft showed up on radar heading straight for CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, a few miles up the Potomac River from downtown D.C. "I was on the seventh floor. It was late on a Friday morning," recalls Joseph Augustyn, then the CIA's deputy associate director for homeland security. "Somebody runs in and says, 'It's at stall speed. It'll be over headquarters in about eight minutes.'"

Six months after Al-Qaeda hijackers flew airliners into the World Trade Center and Pentagon, officials were on high alert for another such attack, especially since it was only the brave passengers of United Flight 93 who had prevented a hijacked plane from using the National Mall as a big green glide path to fly into the Capitol Building. Washington, D.C., they figured, was Al-Qaeda's unfinished business. The group had demonstrated its patience when it made sure it destroyed the World Trade Center the second time around, on 9/11. F-16s had been flying regular patrols over the city ever since.

Now a plane was heading straight for the CIA, another symbol of American might. F-16s scrambled to look for it, Augustyn tells *Newsweek*, but they flew too fast and high to see it. The plane kept coming. "It went right over the agency," he says of the previously unreported incident. Secret Service agents raced to small landing strips in Virginia, hoping to find the plane and its owner, but neither could be found. And to this day, Augustyn says, "nobody knows where it landed." (The Federal Aviation Administration tells *Newsweek* it couldn't find a record of the incident without a firmer date. The Secret Service did not respond by press time.)

The "lesson learned," Augustyn says, is that "you can't send F-16s—you gotta send helicopters." Fourteen years later, choppers of all kinds—from the police, National Park Service, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Customs, Drug Enforcement Administration, FBI and more—constantly flit across the city's skies. In 2013, residents of leafy far northwest Washington got annoyed by loud, unmarked "black helicopters" swirling low and slow over their neighborhoods at night. After much hemming and hawing, officials finally admitted they had been dispatched by the obscure National Nuclear Security Administration to take air samples to help them detect the presence of a future "dirty bomb," an evil marriage of conventional explosives and radioactive material.

"It's not likely, but you can't take that for granted," says Lanier. "I have to be prepared if the most remote kind of attack does occur, so we can continue our operations here."

The city has built up air defenses Saddam Hussein would have envied. From the city-side window of an airliner descending into Washington's National Airport, a discerning passenger can spot some of the Stinger anti-aircraft missile batteries and 50-caliber machine guns potted on the roofs of government buildings around town, including the White House, all of which are backed up by Sentinel [phased array warning radar](#). Air Force F-16s also sit "[cocked and locked](#)" at nearby Andrews Air Force Base, deployable at an instant's notice to intercept intruders into D.C.'s Flight Restricted Zone, which extends 15 miles out from downtown.



U.S. Secret Service Agents watch as three helicopters head toward the south lawn of the White House, one carrying U.S. President George W. Bush, April 5, 2005.

Mannie Garcia/Reuters

Yet even with all this high-tech barbed wire, an unhinged postal worker managed to pilot a gyrocopter through the no-fly zone last year, circle the Washington Monument, soar over the National Mall and land on the West Lawn of the Capitol, where millions will gather in January for a presidential swearing-in. His payload? A bag full of petitions for Congress to clean up campaign corruption. Homeland security officials shudder at what else he might have carried. It was yet another "lesson learned." "We fixed that," a city security official assures *Newsweek*.

How, then, to explain the [incident](#) just a month ago, when a Virginia man parked his pickup truck next to the Reflecting Pool, again on the Capitol's West Lawn, and told police he was carrying a bucket of anthrax material

that had infected him? Hazmat specialists hosed him down, ran tests and found he was just delusional. But what are police to do on the tourist-choked Mall, security experts ask—stop traffic for random checks?

The U.S. Park Police, responsible for the Mall, “is not staffed or equipped to effectively respond to critical incidents...or protect” such icons as the Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington monuments, its union says. Representative Betty McCollum of Minnesota, the top Democrat on the House appropriations panel with jurisdiction over the Park Police, tells *Newsweek* the force “has not received the resources it needs, and that concerns me greatly...[g]iven the potential threats to Washington.”

The specter of a biological or chemical attack, in not just Washington but many other big cities across the country, has haunted security officials since 1995, when the Japanese Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult uncorked a [sarin gas attack](#) on the Tokyo subway that killed 10 people and injured 5,000. (The cult was also experimenting with weaponized botulinum and anthrax.) General Charles Krulak, the Marine Corps commandant, surveyed U.S. defenses and was alarmed to discover that not a single federal agency had a chemical and biological incident response unit, so he ordered the corps to set up its own. His fears were realized in October 2001, when anthrax-laced letters were sent to House and Senate office buildings and several media organizations. Capitol offices were evacuated, and Washingtonians, still terrorized by the 9/11 attacks, were frazzled once again.

If the federal government is good at anything, however, it’s throwing money at threats. Since 2003, taxpayers have contributed \$1.3 billion to the feds’ BioWatch program, a network of pathogen detectors deployed in D.C. and 33 other cities (plus at so-called national security events like the Super Bowl), despite persistent questions about its need and reliability. In 2013, Republican Representative Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Oversight and Investigations subcommittee, [called](#) it a “boondoggle.” Jeh Johnson, who took over the reins of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in late 2013, evidently agreed. One of his first acts was to cancel a planned third generation of the program, but the rest of it is still running.

“The BioWatch program was a mistake from the start,” a former top federal emergency medicine official tells *Newsweek* on condition of anonymity, saying he fears retaliation from the government for speaking out. The well-known problems with the detectors, he says, are both highly technical and practical. “Any sort of thing can blow into its filter papers, and then you are wrapping yourself around an axle,” trying to figure out if it’s real. Of the 149 suspected pathogen samples collected by BioWatch detectors nationwide, he reports, “none were a threat to public health.” A 2003 tularemia alarm in Texas was traced to a dead rabbit.

Michael Sheehan, a former top Pentagon, State Department and New York Police Department counterterrorism official, echoes such assessments. “The technology didn’t work, and I had no confidence that it ever would,” he tells *Newsweek*. The immense amounts of time and money devoted to it, he adds, could’ve been better spent “protecting dangerous pathogens stored in city hospitals from falling into the wrong hands.” When he sought to explore that angle at the NYPD, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “initially would not tell us where they were until I sent two detectives to Atlanta to find out,” he says. “And they did, and we helped the hospitals with their security—and they were happy for the assistance.”

Even if BioWatch performed as touted, Sheehan and others say, a virus would be virtually out of control and sending scores of people to emergency rooms by the time air samples were gathered, analyzed and the horrific

results distributed to first responders. BioWatch, Sheehan suggests, is a billion-dollar hammer looking for a nail, since “weaponizing biological agents is incredibly hard to do,” and even ISIS, which theoretically has the scientific assets to pursue such weapons, has shown little sustained interest in them. Plus, extremists of all denominations have demonstrated over the decades that they like things that go boom (or *tat-tat-tat*, the sound of an assault rifle). So the \$1.1 billion spent on BioWatch is way out of proportion to the risk, critics argue. What’s really driving programs like BioWatch, Sheehan says—beside fears of leaving any potential threat uncovered, no matter how small—is the opportunity it gives members of Congress to lard out pork to research universities and contractors back home.

When contacted by *Newsweek*, DHS spokesman Scott McConnell issued a statement calling BioWatch “a critical part of our nation’s defense against biological threats.” But only on condition of anonymity would a department official claim that BioWatch, “operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year...has a robust quality assurance program, which includes evaluating and auditing all operational processes from sample collection through final data analysis and results reporting.”

The former federal medical emergency official has a succinct reaction to that claim: “What baloney.”

Surveillance by humans, cameras and computers has been a 24/7 obsession in D.C. since 9/11. JIM WATSON/AFP/Getty

### Ponder the Unthinkable

The prospect of a terrorist gang heading for Washington with a nuclear weapon—a dirty bomb or the Hiroshima-like device—has kept many a U.S. official awake and staring at the ceiling since the early 1990s, when reports surfaced that Al-Qaeda was trying to obtain uranium with the help of Sudan. More recently, evidence emerged that ISIS operatives in Belgium were casing a nuclear plant; in 2012, two employees of a nuclear plant in the country left for Syria and joined up with ISIS, according to news [reports](#). Such events have prompted U.S. presidents from Bill Clinton onward to funnel untold billions of dollars into systems to head off such an attack, from uranium sniffers around downtown Washington and its Metro system to seagoing drones prowling the Chesapeake Bay and other major waterways and ports for radiological contraband.

With alarming regularity, reports surfaced that the first generation of technology deployed by DHS to inspect cargo from container ships was a bust. The harshest criticism landed on the radiation screeners DHS deployed to ports. Officials had decided to inspect only “high-risk [containers]...actually only 6% of all incoming cargo, leaving the great majority of containers and imports unchecked,” the Nuclear Threat Initiative [reported](#) in 2007. False positives, from such naturally radiating material as kitty litter, bananas and ceramics, drove operators crazy, “reduc[ing] the sense of urgency among those who respond to them,” the NTI said. “Between May 2001 and March 2005, there were reportedly 10,000 false alarms.” Despite serious questions about whether DHS was fudging its statistics, Congress allowed it to steer \$1.15 billion worth of new business to contractors “to enhance the detection of radiological and nuclear materials.” Seven years later, the Government Accountability Office, Congress’s investigative arm, found that the new technology was pretty much a bust too. It “did not meet key requirements to detect radiation and identify its source,” the GAO [said](#).

Holes like that mean police, fire and health officials must ponder the unthinkable. Jerome Hauer, who ran the Public Health Emergency Preparedness office within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from

2002 to 2004, says he's not worried about terrorists getting their hands on a ready-made Nagasaki-style plutonium device; he's more worried about them obtaining highly enriched uranium from sympathizers in places like Pakistan, India and Iran—or anywhere there's a nuclear power plant—and fashioning what he calls "an improvised nuclear device," or IND.

*Nobody* is ready for that. D.C.'s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, or HSEMA, concedes as much. Its response plan says: "Emergency responders and hospitals may have limited capability to isolate and treat casualties contaminated with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and/or explosive (CBRNE) material."

Despite years of thinking about such dire threats, however, the city's mass evacuation plan is still a work in progress, a capital-region emergency planner says. "What they had was only a basic tactical transportation plan. What it showed was all the evacuation routes and basically the stuff they might do in a crisis, such as the police directing traffic," the source confides on condition of anonymity to discuss such a sensitive issue. "But it didn't have an overarching authority, like, when everything hits the fan, what their roles and responsibilities are —that this agency does this, this agency does that, how transport will be mobilized..."

A major lapse was discovered in January 2015, when D.C. Metro passengers were trapped in a smoke-filled tunnel, and first responders couldn't communicate by radio with subway emergency officials. Riders waited for 35 minutes to be rescued. One died, and more than 80 more were injured. "Firefighters resorted to cellphones and a chain of runners to relay information during the Jan. 12 incident," *The Washington Post* reported, calling it "the latest example of the Washington region's continuing struggles with emergency response, despite spending nearly \$1 billion in federal homeland security grants since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in order to be nimble in a crisis."



A major hole in D.C.'s emergency response plan was exposed last year when Metro riders were stranded in a smoke-filled tunnel and firefighters had to use cellphones and relays to coordinate their rescue.

Martin Adolfsson/Gallery Stock

Chris Geldart, who took over the HSEMA in 2012, has privately grumbled about the state of D.C.'s preparedness for a major emergency, insiders say, but publicly, he claims he's ready. "We have a mass evacuation plan," he says. "In the past, we had a couple of different plans. Over the last two and a half to three years, we've been making sure that we have a holistic plan. For special events," like the massive annual Fourth of July gathering on the Mall, "we have a walk-out plan. The surface evacuation plan," he adds, "has been in place for a while. But how to move people out of their homes to a shelter or a place outside the city, we're doing a lot of work on that now."

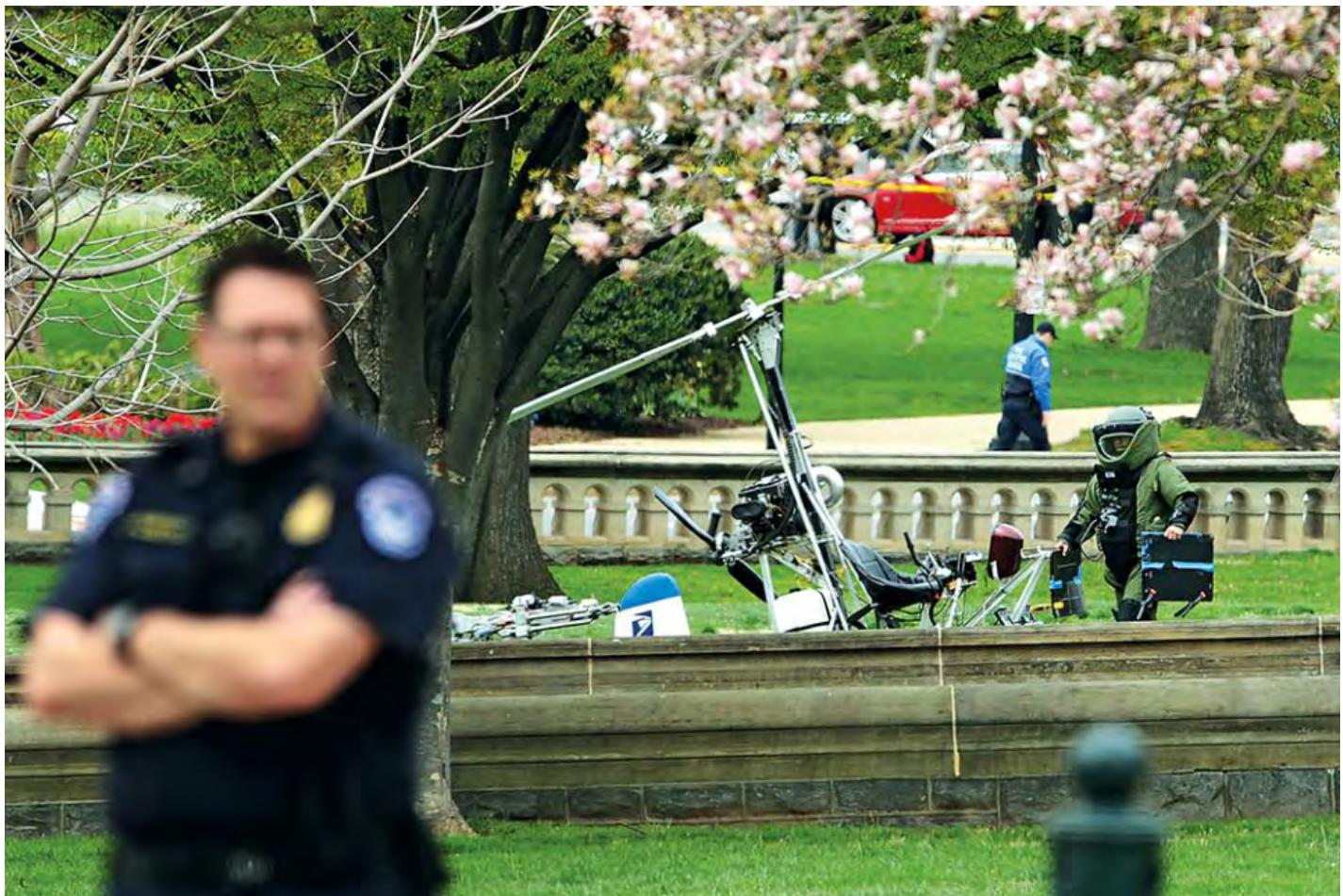
Metropolitan Police Chief Lanier also insists the city is ready. "The surface transportation evacuation plan...has probably been revised five times in the last 10 years," she says. Police will man intersections, synchronize traffic lights and open up "the primary 19 major routes" out of the city.

On June 13, 2008, when Lanier says she had a plan, the combination of a power substation failure that shut off traffic lights and a fire in a Metro station created a massive downtown gridlock that froze D.C. police and emergency crews in the streets. Three years later, when Lanier says the evacuation plan was going through one of its routine revisions, a 5.8-magnitude earthquake rattled the region, casting more doubt on D.C.'s preparations. "Gridlock and confusion" gripped the city, *The Huffington Post* reported, mostly because the public got mixed messages from federal and local authorities. Longtime D.C. city Councilman Phil Mendelson complained that emergency officials still hadn't gotten the memo from 9/11. Their inability to handle even a

snowstorm, he said, was “a blueprint for anybody who wants to commit terrorism in this city.” Eight years later, “there’s a lot more work that needs to be done, and it’s way overdue,” says the emergency planner. “There’s still no comprehensive plan to move people out of the city en masse.”

Another “lesson learned” or, as is usually the case, only partially learned? HSEMA’s Geldart says his agency is tight with counterparts in Northern Virginia and Maryland. Yet some D.C. officials seem unsure who’s in charge of what during a major emergency. Mayor Bowser is nominally in charge, and she has a deputy mayor for public safety and justice, Kevin Donahue. “The mayor is in charge,” his spokesperson says. “Chris Geldart would be coordinating.” In reality, as Geldart and Lanier both know, whatever agency responds to the scene of a disaster first—depending on the incident, the D.C. police or the city’s Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department—is in charge until local and federal authorities figure out who should take the lead. In the case of a clear act of terrorism, that would be the FBI.

If a dirty bomb were detonated without warning near the White House, there would be “a lot of panic, a lot of chaos,” one of Geldart’s predecessors, Darrell Darnell, told me in a 2008 [interview](#). But “the conventional explosive itself would be more harmful to individuals than the radioactive material,” says the [NTI](#). “Making prompt, accurate information available to the public may prevent the panic sought by terrorists.” But as has been demonstrated again and again during D.C.’s confusion over lesser emergencies, downtown intersections, the major avenues to Maryland and the bridges to Virginia would almost certainly be gridlocked as panicked commuters raced for home. Police, not to mention ambulance crews, would be stuck in the streets, unable to get to the radioactive disaster area, much less ferry the sick and wounded to area hospitals. Depending on the size of the bomb and type of radiological material wrapped to it, parts of the federal district could be uninhabitable for years.



D.C. has air defenses that would have made Sadaam Hussein jealous, yet an unhinged postal worker piloted a gyrocopter through the city's no-fly zone, circled the Washington Monument and landed on the Capitol's West Lawn last year.

Chip Somodevilla/Getty

D.C.'s first responders and hospitals are better equipped to handle a radiological explosion than they were in 2004, when a startling BBC-HBO docudrama, *Dirty War*, showed London police and fire crews rushing to the site of big explosion and soon collapsing from radiation poisoning. D.C.'s emergency units are now equipped with hazmat suits and decontamination equipment. D.C.-area hospitals, according to Dr. Bruno Petinaux, co-director of George Washington University's Emergency Management Program, conduct regular drills to stay sharp, including one in May mimicking a mass casualty incident. "We have a designated space to decontaminate patients" by hosing them down, he tells *Newsweek*. "Other hospitals are doing same." Doctors and nurses are also better prepared to handle chemical and biological attacks from their experience with anthrax, swine flu and Ebola, he says. "I think the medical community as a whole is so much more attuned to picking up these epidemiological" threats. "The D.C. Department of Health," he adds, "established a watch officer position who's available 24/7 and allows us, at 3 a.m. on a Saturday morning, to notify them of an unusual case."

### 'Your Front-Door Guy Is Bleeding Out'

A little perspective goes a long way in planning, says Sheehan, the NYPD's deputy commissioner for counterterrorism from 2003 to 2008. Pulling off a chemical, biological or nuclear attack is "hard to do," he notes. "Any plots outside the family tend to get rolled up. Plus, fortunately, most of these terrorists are stupid and incompetent—or very limited in scope." He snarks about "terrorism hypers" who have spent the years since

9/11 predicting another big attack in the U.S., something on the scale of the four-day rampage in Mumbai that left 164 dead and over 300 wounded in 2008. But neither Al-Qaeda, nor its mid-2000s offshoot Al-Qaeda in Iraq, nor ISIS, he notes, "has been able to organize a complex, multi-pronged attack inside the U.S. since 9-11." They've been relegated to inspiring "lone wolf" ISIS agents and aspirants to carry out flashy attacks with bombs, grenades and automatic weapons—a far cry from the complex and sophisticated multiple-airliner hijacking operations of 9/11. "None of this is easy, which is why they haven't been able to replicate [Mumbai]," he says. "Guys willing and able to pull off something like that are rare."

Still, New York and other big-city police departments studied Mumbai closely, using table-top exercises and field drills to game out how they might better handle similar scenarios. Paris was also a "game changer" for Lanier's police department, because that city's tapestry of "soft target areas and...a lot of dignitaries" is so similar to D.C.'s. It "caused us to change some of our operations," she says, "some of the tactics of our SWAT team and our first responders." The lessons were applied at the Metropolitan police's new \$6 million training facility, which features lifelike streetscapes and buildings for practice.

"You look at every attack, no matter how small or far away, and as quickly as you can," says Lanier, who has a prominent role in the regional [Joint Terrorism Task Force](#) (JTTF, one of 104 around the country), giving her real-time access to the best intelligence the feds have. "We're trying to get those dynamics as they are unfolding, because we don't know if there's not multiple attacks planned for other places. We want to know about the explosives, who are the people involved and their connections, so we can start making immediate protective actions."



F-16s at nearby Andrews Air Force Base are deployable at an instant's notice to intercept intruders into D.C.'s no-fly zone, which extends 15 miles from downtown.

MixPix/Alamy

The consensus has been that you can't prepare much for "lone wolves" like Omar Mateen, a misfit who claimed loyalty to a variety of militant Islamic groups before unleashing terror with his automatic rifle at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Sheehan and other experts say, such attackers are "very difficult to stop once they are ready to launch."

Lanier and her federal partners were thinking about nightclub attacks months ago. In April, they convened a meeting of nightclub owners and restaurateurs in a banquet room around the corner from the White House. "The message was both dire and obvious, once unthinkable and now unavoidable," *The Washington Post* reported. "You know those terrorists who want to attack Washington? Forget the Capitol. Next time, they might come for your happy hour."

Be ready, the attendees were told by a bevy of police, intelligence and homeland security officials. "As in, who will be in charge if your front-door guy is bleeding out on the sidewalk," according to the *Post*.

"They can pick their target," Sheehan says of the lone wolves, "and very little can be done about it." But aggressive intelligence operations can break up most plots, he argued in a 2008 book, *Crush the Cell: How to Defeat Terrorism Without Terrorizing Ourselves*. "Spies are the key!" he says. The FBI, responsible for counterterrorism nationwide, should work more closely with "local police forces that can follow up in the neighborhoods of [suspects] to head off a potential attack," he argues, "before they can be launched."

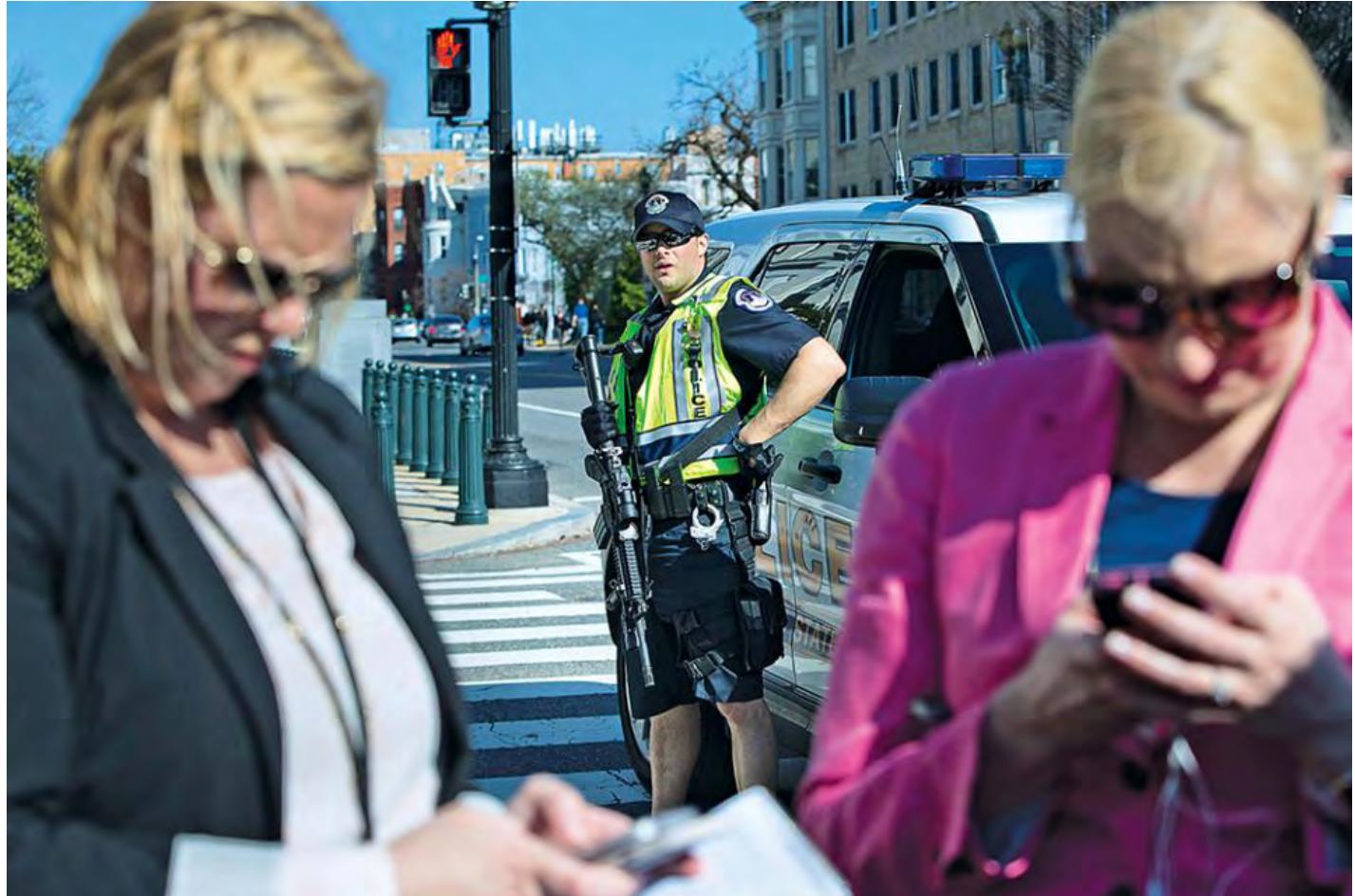
And the feds should stop spending "obscene" amounts of money "on activities that have a very marginal impact on our safety." The annual intelligence budget has doubled since the end of the Cold War, Sheehan told an interviewer in 2008, from \$25 billion, "when we defeated a true strategic threat that had hundreds of nuclear weapons pointed at our cities and control of all of Eastern Europe," to \$50 billion, much of that increase spurred by a preoccupation with a few hundred dedicated terrorists.

Lanier is spending on intelligence too, she says. "I have a dedicated field intelligence group. They're out in the field every day." She also gets feeds from the FBI and CIA through the JTTF. "But intelligence comes a lot of forms," she says. "It doesn't just come from an intelligence officer." It can come from cops on the beat or inside the schools, uniformed officers who engage with people. Other experts see only limited value in that, but they say Lanier is constrained from developing more muscular undercover counterterrorism intelligence operations under the nose of FBI headquarters. "The FBI would go ballistic," says one counterterrorism veteran.

Lanier is overstating the number of patrol officers who are actually out on the street at any one time, a recently retired Metropolitan police captain tells *Newsweek*. "It would scare you if you knew how few police were on the street at any given time," says Robert Atcheson, a 20-year veteran of the force and a former unit commander in the special operations division. "At midnight, there are probably no more than 250 to 300 police officers on the street" out of a total force of 3,600 (not 3,800, he explains; that's an unfilled, authorized ceiling).

Do the math, he says: "Forty percent of the police force is not in uniform or assigned to patrol, which is the only people who respond to a 911 calls or calls for service. The SWAT guys wear a uniform, but they only do SWAT;

they don't respond to calls. The crime scene techs wear uniforms, but they don't patrol or respond to 911 calls." The same goes for K-9 officers, detectives and uniforms assigned to homeland security or federal task forces. Subtract another 5 to 10 percent for injuries, sick leave or vacation, plus the 200 unfilled slots, and "your 3,800 starts to look really thin." In fact, it's down to about 1,650. Only 28 percent of that number, he says, work the midnight shift, presumably a good time to throw grenades into a nightclub or drive a truck bomb onto the Mall. That works out to about 450 cops on the street.



A Capitol Police officer watches as members of the media work in the foreground on Capitol Hill, March 28. Capitol Police officers reported a man was shot by police after drawing a weapon at a U.S. Capitol checkpoint.

Jacquelyn Martin/AP

When asked about this estimate (without being told the source), Lanier laughs, calls such numbers "insane" and cracks, "You must be talking to a disgruntled union member." (He's not, but she did discipline him and a fellow officer in 2011 for giving Charlie Sheen a high-speed ride from Dulles Airport to a downtown concert date.) "We have about 900 [on the street], but it can be as many on a single shift as 1,200 or 1,300," she counters, "depending on the day of the week and what's going on."

But Atcheson stands by his numbers: "You can't speak truth to power with her," he says. In August 2015, the police union conducted a no-confidence vote on the chief. It passed with 97 percent.

But Lanier has big fans in the higher precincts of the FBI and CIA, where she was a "frequent visitor" after 9/11, Augustyn says.

"Chief Lanier has a no greater fan than me," says Michael Rolince, a former high-ranking FBI counterterrorism official. "She probably has one of the hardest, if not *the* hardest, chief of police jobs in the country," he tells *Newsweek*, "just because of what the city is, what it represents, who's here and who travels here, and how the world views Washington, D.C. It is markedly difficult and markedly different than most other major American cities," he says. Pointing to Lanier's years running the Metropolitan police's special operations unit, he adds, "She gets it; she always has."

No matter her talent, however, she'll never be able to protect D.C. to the degree that NYPD Commissioner William Bratton can shield New York, he and others say. "There are just too many moving parts" in D.C., as Augustyn puts it, too many federal and local government agencies and jurisdictions with their own homeland security agendas.

Augustyn, who joined the Jefferson Waterman international security firm after retiring from the CIA, says he was astonished by the radio failures during the fire in the Metro tunnel last year. He thought D.C. officials fixed that problem long ago, taking their lesson from the 9/11 radio failures at the World Trade Center. "I thought, for all the training...you have to wonder where the money's been spent."

Lanier had no role in that disaster, but she suggests her agency wouldn't fall down the way the fire department and Metro officials did. "Maybe I'm a little biased, but when you talk about [police in] the top-tier cities—New York, L.A., Washington—I think we are the most advanced in a lot of ways, but the most advanced in terms of preparation and response as any law enforcement agency in the country." She stops and then adds, "We have to be."

On that, at least, everybody can agree. Yet despite the bulked-up Metropolitan police presence on pride weekend, a vandal managed to spray-paint anti-gay graffiti on a sidewalk in Dupont Circle, the 24/7 action center for the city's LGBT community. Thousands of revelers had gathered in the neighborhood that night.

It could have been far, far worse.

*This story was updated to include a paragraph on the U.S. Park Police and the security situation at the Washington Mall.*